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Economic and Social Council

Provisional

10 February 2003
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Organizational session for 2003

Provisional summary record of the 3rd meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 30 January 2003, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. Rosenthal ..... (Guatemala)

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Corrections to this record should be submitted in one of the working languages. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent *within one week of the date of this document* to the Chief, Official Records Editing Section, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza.

03-23170 (E)
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The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (E/2003/1, E/2003/2, E/2003/3, E/2003/8, E/2003/L.1)

1. **Mr. de Barros** (Secretary of the Council) said that in the light of comments and changes made by delegations at the previous meeting, the Secretariat would issue a revised version of the proposed basic programme of work of the Council for 2003 and 2004 (E/2003/1).

Ad hoc advisory group on African countries emerging from conflict

Report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Guinea-Bissau (E/2003/8)

2. **Mr. Kumalo** (Chairman of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Guinea-Bissau) said that at the meeting held recently in New York as a follow-up to the publication of the report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group, the Minister of Finance and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Guinea-Bissau had welcomed the report and stressed their Government's commitment to working with the Council to implement its recommendations. In preparing its report, the Group had enjoyed the full support of the President of Guinea-Bissau and had been urged to consult the people and make a frank assessment of the situation. The report stressed the need for partnership between the national authorities, donors and the Bretton Woods institutions; accordingly, a meeting had been held on 28 January 2003 with donors and the Bretton Woods institutions in order to exchange views on measures to assist the people of Guinea-Bissau, followed by a meeting with a delegation from the Government.

3. The Government of Guinea-Bissau, while recognizing the important role it must play, hoped for international support in organizing the parliamentary elections of April 2003. Much work had already been done by the United Nations representatives on the ground, the Resident Coordinator for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the representative of the Secretary-General. Although progress had been made towards establishing mechanisms for the elections, guidance and feedback from the Council concerning future actions, including support for the elections, endorsement of the report, assistance and a draft resolution on the situation in Guinea-Bissau, would be welcome.

4. **Mr. Bennouna** (Observer for Morocco), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, welcomed the timely submission of the report of the Advisory Group. The conflict in that country had had a disastrous effect on its development and there was an urgent need for international financial and economic assistance to avoid a return to conflict.

5. The report was an important one because it was the first report of the first such ad hoc group. It must therefore be seen to be beneficial for Guinea-Bissau and for United Nations efforts in the areas of peace consolidation and national reconstruction. Success would encourage other African countries emerging from conflict to request the establishment of such a group. The Council must send a strong message to the international community on the need to provide assistance to Guinea-Bissau and thereby contribute to stability in the region as a whole. He therefore welcomed the recommendations contained in the report and supported their implementation.

6. The Group of 77 and China subscribed to the concept of partnership, which implied that both the national authorities and donors had obligations; however, in order to create an appropriate enabling environment, the national authorities required international assistance for social and economic development programmes which would support implementation of economic and political objectives. The Advisory Group, the United Nations system, the Bretton Woods institutions and donor countries must mobilize resources and expertise to develop the social and economic sectors, starting with encouragement of foreign investment.

7. Within the United Nations system, UNDP should establish a new assistance programme for Guinea-Bissau in consultation with donors and international financial institutions, which should be multisectoral and oriented towards basic infrastructure and the reinforcement of institutional capacities. At the social level, the programme should focus on employment, reintegration of former combatants and poverty reduction in order to gain the confidence of the population and encourage all sectors of society to participate in reconstruction.

8. The short-term recommendations of the Advisory Group relating to support for the elections in April

2003 should be implemented, as the climate of confidence which would be created by a return to the rule of law would encourage international investment. The elections would contribute to national reconciliation and confidence-building between the Government and its partners and should be as transparent as possible. International financial assistance must also be provided in order to support government institutions and prepare for the elections. He therefore expressed support for the establishment of a special fund to respond to the immediate and short-term needs of Guinea-Bissau and reiterated the rejection by the Group of 77 and China of any conditionality relating to such assistance. Aid should be provided on the basis of neutrality and impartiality and should respond to the specific needs of the country without calling into question the country's economic and political choices.

9. He cautioned that the report and its recommendations related only to the circumstances and situation in Guinea-Bissau and should have no implications of systemic nature. Each African country emerging from conflict had its own specific needs and the Council should proceed in a case-by-case manner, bearing in mind that the priority must always be the re-establishment of peace, national reconciliation and regional stability. He urged the Council to adopt the recommendations presented in the report, thus sending a message of solidarity to an entire people which was yearning for peace and stability. The Group of 77 and China reiterated their solidarity with Guinea-Bissau and their commitment to work for peace and stability, reconstruction and social and economic development.

10. **Mr. Vassilakis** (Greece), speaking on behalf of the European Union, the acceding countries Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia and in addition the associated countries Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey, said that African countries emerging from conflict situations should be among the highest priorities of the United Nations system. The establishment by the Council of a framework for advisory group(s) on African countries emerging from conflict provided an important mechanism to address the multiple needs of those countries. The General Assembly and the Security Council had both recognized the interactive relationship between security and development and the importance of achieving sustainable development in the countries concerned. He therefore welcomed the continued involvement of the international financial institutions in those processes because they had an essential role to play in peace-building and in supporting efforts for long-term growth and development.

11. Recalling the Council's role in increasing awareness of the particular challenges faced by countries emerging from conflict, he said that the European Union had supported the establishment of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Guinea-Bissau as a useful mechanism for dealing with that country's needs. The Group also met the need of the international community to find instruments for providing assistance to countries which no longer needed peacekeeping support but which were not ready to receive regular donor assistance and the requirements linked thereto.

12. He expressed appreciation for the comprehensive report and welcomed the fact that it contained both long-term and short-term recommendations. The European Union supported a genuine partnership between the Government of Guinea-Bissau and the international community based on common objectives and a long-term development strategy. It was therefore critical that the elections of April 2003 should be free and fair. The elections would help to restore donor confidence and thus deserved the support of the international community. They would also affect implementation of the report and the mandate of the Advisory Group should therefore be extended until July in order to allow it to follow up its examination of the humanitarian and economic situation.

13. Guinea-Bissau was at an important crossroad; there were political challenges to be dealt with and subregional circumstances to be taken into account. The international community and the United Nations system in particular must provide assistance to Guinea-Bissau and promote a cooperative response to an exceptional situation. The efforts of the international community must likewise be matched by clear and tangible commitments on the part of Guinea-Bissau concerning good governance and the rule of law.

14. **Ms. Zubčević** (Observer for Croatia) stressed the need to go beyond peacekeeping measures, to consolidate peace in post-conflict situations and to promote political reform, socio-economic development, human rights and the creation of sustainable institutions and processes. Most post-conflict countries had no tradition of the rule of law or

viable institutions, which were important criteria for donors; they were caught in a vicious circle where lack of resources prevented development and led to renewed conflict. The Council must therefore strengthen its role in peace-building by promoting sustainable peace and development. In return for international assistance the Governments concerned must promote democracy, the rule of law and institution-building and meet the needs of the population, including women and minorities.

15. Her delegation had supported the establishment of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Guinea-Bissau. She noted that Guinea-Bissau had already received post-conflict assistance three years earlier and had benefited from the enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative. There was a risk, however, that the country was slowly sliding back into conflict. The report of the Advisory Group put forward innovative solutions on ways to assist the country and to ensure international development assistance was used wisely. It was therefore urgent that the Council should act promptly in considering the report and its recommendations. Free and fair elections must be supported and the Council should also act quickly to approve a resolution on the situation in Guinea-Bissau.

16. The Advisory Group on Guinea-Bissau would serve as a model for the peace-building efforts of the Council and the Organization. She therefore called for increased coordination with the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Security Council on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa and for increased inter-agency support for peace-building efforts.

17. **Mr. Mizukami** (Japan) stressed the need for a comprehensive approach to the prevention and resolution of conflicts. His Government had always been active in post-conflict situations, for example in Cambodia, Kosovo and Mozambique, among others, and in providing humanitarian assistance. That experience had highlighted the need to provide development assistance at all stages of the post-conflict process and his Government would continue to provide official development assistance to humanitarian and development programmes as part of its commitment to peace-building.

18. He welcomed the very comprehensive report of the Advisory Group and commended its efforts to consult all parties. He noted the involvement and commitment of United Nations representatives on the ground as well as of the Bretton Woods institutions and other actors and stressed the importance of cooperative efforts to implement the recommendations of the report. Better coordination would lead to better use of resources. The Advisory Group had worked quickly and thoroughly and its report contained valid short-term and long-term recommendations. The Government of Guinea-Bissau must now respond to the wishes of the international community and convince it of its commitment to implementing those recommendations.

19. **Mr. Isakov** (Russian Federation) said that the report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group (E/2003/8) presented an objective assessment of the complex economic and social situation in Guinea-Bissau. He shared other delegations' concerns regarding, inter alia, the continuing political instability in the country, the non-promulgation of its Constitution and the failure to elect the President and Vice-President of the Supreme Court. In view of the forthcoming parliamentary elections, those issues needed urgent attention.

20. He was also concerned about the ongoing social tensions within Guinea-Bissau, which were due to high levels of unemployment, delays in the payment of salaries, the threat of famine and the economic decline owing to decreased foreign investment. The international community must provide financial and technical assistance in order to strengthen the still fragile democracy and to prevent further conflict.

21. The Advisory Group's approach was promising, and the recommendations contained in its report were useful as they addressed both the short and the long-term needs of Guinea-Bissau. He welcomed the emphasis on a partnership between the national Government and the international community, but stressed that the Government must take a leading role within that partnership. He noted, however, that some recommendations required further clarification, particularly with regard to the respective roles of the Government of Guinea-Bissau, the Bretton Woods institutions, the United Nations system and other partners.

22. His delegation was of the opinion that the Advisory Group should pursue its contacts with the relevant stakeholders in order to take additional practical steps to assist Guinea-Bissau. In that connection, the Russian Federation supported the proposal to prolong the mandate of the Group and increase its membership.

23. In conclusion, he said that the report was particularly significant because it dealt with the question of the creation of special mechanisms to assist countries emerging from conflict which were not able to attract investment through the traditional channels. The Advisory Group was a useful instrument in the area of conflict prevention and peace-building and provided the opportunity to increase interaction between the Economic and Social Council and the Security Council.

24. **Mr. Roshdy** (Egypt) said that the report of the Advisory Group reflected a deep understanding of the problems facing Guinea-Bissau and other countries in similar situations. However, he stressed that the situation in Guinea-Bissau was so fragile that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) had estimated that a minimum of US$ 12 million to 15 million were needed to enable the State to function, and in that context, it was not appropriate to impose conditionalities on Guinea-Bissau. Humanitarian aid should be provided in accordance with the principles of neutrality and impartiality, and the report should not be used as a pretext to reshape the country's economic and social situation.

25. His delegation wished to adopt the recommendations contained in the report, but would appreciate clarification on a number of issues: with reference to paragraph 55 (e), he pointed out that human rights did not fall within the mandate of all United Nations agencies. He understood from paragraph 44 that one of Guinea-Bissau's main sources of income was fisheries but, with reference to paragraph 55 (g), he cautioned against placing the country's resources under regional supervision.

26. **Mr. Hussein** (Ethiopia) associated himself with the statement made by the Observer for Morocco on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and commended the Advisory Group on its report. Although he supported all the recommendations made in the report, he considered that the immediate implementation of the short-term recommendations was essential in order to consolidate stability and lay the foundations for longer-term development in all areas. He recalled that the Secretary-General had stressed the need for budgetary support if the fragile stability in Guinea-Bissau was to be consolidated.

27. He agreed with the conclusion contained in paragraph 56 of the report, namely that an integrated subregional approach should be taken in addressing the problems of Guinea-Bissau, but stressed that the successful implementation of the recommendations of the Advisory Group depended on the full commitment of the Government.

28. **Ms. Gustafson** (United States of America) said that all concerned wanted to see Guinea-Bissau overcome its difficulties. However, her delegation could not support all the recommendations contained in the report. There was certainly a need for flexibility on the part of the Bretton Woods institutions, but the Government of Guinea-Bissau must take political and economic measures at the national level to enhance donor confidence. Improving the Government's performance would have a positive effect on donor flexibility. She regretted that her Government was unable to endorse the report at that stage, but looked forward to receiving a firm commitment from all parties to achieving peace and stability in Guinea-Bissau.

29. **Mr. Cissé** (Senegal) associated himself with the statement made by the Observer for Morocco on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. In view of his country's special relationship with Guinea-Bissau, he welcomed the Organization's willingness to provide assistance to that country. However, it was caught up in a vicious circle: without support from the international community, it would be unable to introduce the reforms imposed by donors as a condition of aid. The Council had a vital role to play in that regard, and must urgently adopt a resolution on the issue and launch a clear political appeal to highlight the gravity of the situation and the need for immediate action. He stressed that a country which was facing three simultaneous transitions would find it extremely difficult to single-handedly implement the reforms necessary to regain economic, political and social stability.

30. IMF also had an important role to play, and should recommence debt relief assistance to Guinea-Bissau. The Council should help IMF to adopt a more flexible approach, since cooperation on the part of the Bretton Woods institutions would encourage other donors to intervene.

31. **Ms. dos Santos Jaló** (Observer for Guinea-Bissau) said that it was reassuring to see that her country could count on the support of the Member States of the United Nations. Guinea-Bissau was a

small State with a great history which had successfully come through a war of liberation. However, following the most recent internal conflict, external help had not been forthcoming and, consequently, the country's economic and political life was in ruins. Given the desperate situation her Government had no choice but to fully accept the recommendations of the Advisory Group, but in that connection she recalled the importance of the principle of State sovereignty.

32. The previous two elections in Guinea-Bissau had been perceived as fair and she felt that the country's future could be secured by a successful outcome in the forthcoming elections. Parliament had already been dissolved in preparation for those elections; consequently, the promulgation of the Constitution and the introduction of reforms could not take place until they had been completed.

33. She assured the Council that Guinea-Bissau was committed to doing everything necessary to achieve the desired results.

34. **Mr. Kumalo** (Chairman of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Guinea-Bissau) welcomed the Council's initiation of a discussion about the ways in which the international community could rethink its mechanisms to assist countries emerging from conflict. The United Nations had established extremely effective mechanisms in the areas of peacekeeping and developing countries, but there was a gap in the system when it came to assisting "in-between" countries.

35. He stressed that Guinea-Bissau was not in a position to sustain any conditionalities, but reiterated that no one had actually suggested such a course of action. There was a need for simultaneous action on the part of the Government and the donors, but the Government had to take certain steps in order to earn donor confidence.

36. The United Nations system and the Bretton Woods institutions were providing significant support to Guinea-Bissau; the World Bank was now releasing funds which had been frozen during the conflict, and IMF was in the process of sending teams into the field. Furthermore, UNDP had sent the officials responsible for orchestrating Afghanistan's post-conflict recovery into Guinea-Bissau.

37. The Government of Guinea-Bissau had asked the Organization to assist it in holding elections to establish a solid parliamentary framework for addressing its difficulties. He believed that the endorsement of the Advisory Group's report by the ministers of Guinea-Bissau was a clear sign that they understood what had to be done to turn the situation around.

38. He understood the reservations expressed by a number of delegations, including the delegation of the United States, but was pleased to see that there was general support for the planned elections. He urged Member States to think about the plight of the people of Guinea-Bissau and reiterated that the Government had declared itself willing to play by the rules laid down by the Organization. Lastly, he called for increased cooperation at both the international and the regional levels.

General parameters for the 2003 spring meeting with the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization

39. **The President** said that, in connection with the general parameters for the 2003 spring meeting with the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization (WTO), a revised memorandum had been circulated to members of the Council; he wondered whether delegations had any additional comments thereon.

40. **Mr. Benmellouk** (Observer for Morocco), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that he shared the President's approach with respect to the parameters for the spring meeting. That approach would permit fruitful discussions on the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus as a whole. He proposed that the theme of the spring meeting should be "increased coherence, coordination and cooperation for implementation of the Monterrey Consensus at all levels". The Group of 77 and China supported the idea contained in paragraph 11 on a procedural note prepared by the Secretariat, which would provide some background information on the spring meeting.

41. The Group of 77 and China understood that there would be two meetings of the private sector and civil society. The Group of 77 and China supported the President's approach concerning the organization of a plenary meeting and four round tables. In that regard, it would be better to have one single subject for all the round tables. The Council might authorize the Bureau to begin holding consultations with representatives of

the Bretton Woods institutions and WTO. The Bureau could then come back to the Council to see whether it would be a good idea to establish a contact group or perhaps expand the Bureau to other members of the Council.

42. **Ms. Fragoulopoulou** (Greece), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that the memorandum was a good basis for the 2003 spring meeting with the Bretton Woods institutions and WTO. The European Union agreed that the issues of coherence, coordination and cooperation should be the centrepiece of the discussions and reiterated its view that the dialogue, which should concern operational and implementation issues, should focus on mainstreaming the Consensus into all levels, especially country-level actions. The European Union supported the theme proposed by the President for the meeting as well as the format and the hearings involving the NGO community and the business sector and looked forward to the consultations of the Bureau with the intergovernmental bodies of the Bank, IMF and WTO and to the brief note to be prepared by the Secretariat on ways of shaping a focused dialogue. Following consultations between the European Union and Morocco, it had been agreed to amend the proposal by the Group of 77 and China by inserting the words "a year after Monterrey" after the words "all levels".

43. **Mr. Fahmy** (Egypt) sought clarification on the interaction of the Bureau with the boards of the Bank, IMF and WTO.

44. **The President** said that the Bureau was beginning a dialogue with the Council's partners by presenting a common viewpoint. It would hold consultations at the management level of the World Bank, IMF and WTO. Once it had their reactions, it would come back to the Council with a more complete proposal. The Council would then decide whether subsequent consultations should be held with the intergovernmental bodies of those three institutions.

45. **Ms. Serwer** (United States of America) said that her delegation found the parameters proposed by the Bureau acceptable. In her view, the purpose of the April meeting was to allow all parties to discuss what the United Nations and other stakeholders were doing to support financing for development. Her delegation would like more time to review the Group of 77's proposal for a theme.

46. **Mr. Fahmy** (Egypt), noting that paragraph 69 (a) of the Monterrey Consensus clearly mentioned interactions between representatives of the Economic and Social Council and the directors of the executive boards of the Bank and IMF, as well as representatives of the appropriate intergovernmental body of WTO, wondered whether the approach proposed by the President of limiting such interactions to the management level would not be contrary to that paragraph.

47. **The President** said it was his understanding that the discussion would go to the intergovernmental bodies once the Council had an agreed document. The only unresolved issue was who would represent the Council in those discussions. It was felt that, at some point, all the parties involved — the Economic and Social Council as well as its partners from the intergovernmental machinery — should have the same understanding of the issue. Once the Bureau was sure that such was the case, it would come back to the Council. He suggested that the Council should take note of the memorandum.

48. *It was so decided.*

Operational activities segment

49. **The President** said that, on the basis of comments made by the representative of Greece and the Observer for Morocco on the way in which the operational activities segment should be described, and pursuant to draft decision IV contained in document E/2003/L.1, the Bureau proposed the following formulation:

> "With regard to the operational activities segment of the Council, the Council, during its operational activities segment, will review progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 56/201 on the triennial policy review of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system. In particular, the Council will consider 'the conclusions reached at the present triennial policy review on resources for operational activities for development, reviewing the progress made on the issue of funding of development cooperation activities of the United Nations system' (paragraph 27 of General Assembly resolution 56/201) and the report of the Secretary-General requested in paragraph 56 of the same resolution on 'an impartial and

independent assessment of the extent to which the United Nations funds, programmes and agencies at the field level learn lessons from their evaluations and to formulate proposals on how to improve the feedback mechanisms at the field level'".

He wondered whether the Council found that formulation acceptable.

50. **Mr. Benmellouk** (Observer for Morocco), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that since the Group of 77 and China would be holding consultations immediately following the meeting in order to determine a position on the matter, a decision should be postponed. Moreover, the President should have the proposal circulated in writing in order to permit the Group of 77 and China to make a well-informed decision.

51. **The President** said that the text would be circulated so that it could be considered at the Council's next formal meeting.

Commission on Human Rights request for additional meetings

52. **The President** said that the Secretariat was in consultation with the secretariat of the Commission and the President was also in consultation with the Chairperson of the Commission on Human Rights to determine whether the Commission's programme of work could be settled without need of a further decision from the Council. For the moment, no decision was required.

Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

53. **The President**, referring to the enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, said the interested delegation had indicated that it would submit a draft proposal for consideration and action by the Council at a later stage.

Economic and Social Council Millennium Award for Good Practices

54. **Mr. Khan** (Director, Division for ECOSOC Support and Coordination, Department of Economic and Social Affairs), introducing the proposal, said that it was meant to strengthen the Council's capacity to undertake, with the help of other stakeholders, including Governments, civil society and the private sector, activities which could lead to implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations international conferences and summits. The idea was to see if, with the help of United Nations agencies and resident coordinators, excellent ideas for projects and good practices could be selected and awarded. The idea could be carried out as an experiment during the current year in the area of rural development, the theme that the Council had decided to take up. Agencies working in the area of rural development, including the International Fund for Agricultural Development, had been consulted and had expressed a willingness to cooperate. Nominal funding would be needed. If the Council agreed in principle, a proposal could be developed further.

55. **Mr. Benmellouk** (Observer for Morocco), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, requested more time to study the memorandum.

56. **Ms. Serwer** (United States of America) asked whether funding would come from voluntary resources.

57. **The President** said that funding would come from voluntary resources and that the proposal had no financial implications. He took it that the Council wished to postpone a decision on the matter.

58. *It was so decided.*

International Narcotics Control Board

59. **The President** said that he had received a letter from the Chairman of the International Narcotics Control Board asking the Council to seek the opinion of the Legal Counsel on the difference between "honoraria" and "remuneration". If he heard no objections, he would write a letter to the Office of the Legal Counsel requesting the Legal Counsel to provide guidance in the matter.

60. *It was so decided.*

Elections in connection with the Programme Coordination Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

61. **The President** invited the Council to turn its attention to a vacancy on the Programme Coordination Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS). He had been advised that

Sweden would relinquish its seat on the Board and that the Group of Western European and Other States had put forward the candidature of Switzerland to complete Sweden's term of office.

62. **Mr. Chave** (Observer for Switzerland) explained that the Group of Western European and Other States was organized into a number of constituencies and that Austria, Switzerland and Sweden constituted one of those constituencies. A rotation plan had been agreed under that constituency for participation on the Board. His delegation was seeking the Council's consent to that rotation, which was a purely technical matter that would not jeopardize the acquired rights of other members of the Programme Coordination Board of UNAIDS.

63. **The President** said he took it that the Council wished to elect Switzerland to the Board for a term beginning that day and expiring on 31 December 2003.

64. *It was so decided.*

The meeting rose at 12.20 p.m.

United Nations E/2003/SR.4

Economic and Social Council

Provisional

5 February 2003

Original: English

Organizational session for 2003

Provisional summary record of the 4th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 31 January 2003, at 4 p.m.

President: Mr. Rosenthal ..... (Guatemala)

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Other matters

Corrections to this record should be submitted in one of the working languages. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent *within one week of the date of this document* to the Chief, Official Records Editing Section, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza.

03-23241 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 4.20 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*continued*)

Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Guinea-Bissau (*continued*) (E/2003/8 and E/2003/L.2)

Draft resolution E/2003/L.2

1. **The President** requested that, on an exceptional basis, the draft resolution should be introduced and adopted in English only, since consultations on the text had concluded only half an hour previously.

2. **Mr. De Santa Clara Gomes** (Portugal), facilitator of the informal consultations, introduced the advance English copy of the draft resolution that was to be subsequently issued as document E/2003/L.2. Members of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Guinea-Bissau had been united in their common purpose of aiding the people of Guinea-Bissau in their current difficulties. In the draft text, which was balanced and forward-looking, the Economic and Social Council would, inter alia, decide to extend the Group's mandate until the substantive session of the Council in July 2003.

3. **Mr. Roshdy** (Egypt) said that the adoption of the draft text in English only should not constitute a precedent. His delegation had voiced similar concerns in the past to no avail. The President should reiterate in his report that all draft texts for adoption by the Council must be made available to members in all the official languages.

4. **Mr. L'Eglise Costa** (France) supported the statement made by the representative of Egypt and hoped that the situation would not occur again in the future. Since the negotiations on the text had only just been completed, however, and in view of the importance of the matter to Guinea-Bissau, his delegation would not stand in the way of the adoption of the draft resolution.

5. **Mr. Neil** (Jamaica) asked whether all major groupings, including the Group of 77 and China, had been involved in the negotiations on the draft text.

6. **Mr. De Santa Clara Gomes** (Portugal) confirmed that all major groupings, including the Group of 77 and China, had participated in the consultations.

7. **Mr. Loulichki** (Observer for Morocco), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, confirmed that the Chairman and several members of the Group of 77 and China had participated in the negotiations. While it would be ideal to have all members of the Group participating in such consultations, that was not always possible because of the size of the Group.

8. **Ms. Pliner-Josephs** (Secretary of the Council) said that the draft text had been submitted to the appropriate Secretariat officials, who had informed the Bureau that it contained no programme budget implications.

9. **The President** said he took it that the Council wished to adopt the draft text to be issued as document E/2003/L.2 and which had been circulated in English only.

10. *Draft resolution E/2003/L.2 was adopted.*

Theme for the operational activities segment of the substantive session of 2003 of the Economic and Social Council (*continued*)

11. **The President** drew attention to the text of a draft decision that had been circulated to the Council.

12. **Mr. Aboutahir** (Observer for Morocco), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, recalled that, in paragraph 27 of its resolution 56/201, the General Assembly had explicitly requested the Economic and Social Council to consider, at its substantive session of 2003, the conclusions reached at the current triennial policy review on resources for operational activities for development, reviewing the progress made on the issue of funding of development cooperation activities of the United Nations system. The funding of development cooperation activities was a matter of overarching importance to developing countries and the root cause of all the deficiencies in operational activities. At its substantive session of 2003, the Council should focus primarily on the question of the funding of operational activities for development.

13. The Group of 77 and China considered, moreover, that there were elements of micromanagement in the request contained in paragraph 56 of the resolution that the Secretary-General should carry out an impartial and independent assessment of the extent to which the United Nations funds, programmes and agencies at the field level

learned lessons from their evaluations and formulate proposals on how to improve the feedback mechanisms at the field level.

14. Should the Council not find it possible to take a decision at the current meeting, the Group of 77 and China was willing to continue the discussion, particularly on the question of funding of the development cooperation activities of the United Nations system.

15. **Ms. Fragoulopoulou** (Greece), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that the European Union generally supported the text of the draft decision, but was willing to continue the discussion and to address the issues raised in General Assembly resolution 56/201.

16. **The President** proposed that informal consultations should continue on the matter under the chairmanship of the representative of Ethiopia and that the Council should return to the issue at a later stage.

17. *It was so decided.*

Economic and Social Council Millennium Award for Good Practices (continued)

18. **The President** drew attention to the background note on the Council's Millennium Award Programme and asked whether the Council was ready to proceed with the pilot project that had been proposed in the background note.

19. **Mr. Shimizu** (Japan) welcomed the institution of the Millennium Award Programme, which would encourage civil society to better realize the objectives of the Millennium Development Goals. There seemed to be a contradiction, however, between the background note, in which it was stated that modest funding for the Millennium Award might be provided by extrabudgetary resources, and the President's assurances to the Council the previous day that the Programme would have no additional budgetary implications. Secondly, the selection of an independent jury, the creation of a database on the Council's web site, and the nomination of candidates would generate additional work both in the Secretariat and in United Nations regional offices. Every effort should be made to minimize the work generated by the Programme and an evaluation of the additional work generated should be made upon the Programme's completion. Lastly, it would be useful to know when, how and by whom the independent jury would be selected.

20. **Ms. McCaan** (United States of America) said that her delegation supported the concept of the Award, but wished to draw attention to a technical discrepancy. The reference to "Millennium Development Goals" in both the title and the body of the background note should be replaced by "Goals of the Millennium Declaration".

21. **Mr. Benmellouk** (Observer for Morocco) said that, given the limited time available, further consideration of the matter should be deferred to the Council's next meeting.

22. **Mr. Khan** (Director of the Division for ECOSOC Support and Coordination), replying to the questions raised, said that the implementation of the Award Programme contained no programme budget implications. Funding was to be provided by various foundations and expressions of support had already been received from a number of them. As for the concern that the establishment of a database and selection of a jury might generate additional work, he was confident that those activities would not affect the normal work of the Secretariat. Advantage would be taken of the resources of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section and of the Council's working relationships with national bodies, Resident Representatives and community-based organizations at the national level. Concerning the method to be used in the selection of the jury, the best way would be for the Bureau, in consultation with agencies of the United Nations system, to identify a pool of individuals who were representative of the various regions and who had the necessary expertise. The Bureau would, however, consult with the Council before making the final selection.

23. He had no difficulty with the suggestion made by the representative of the United States concerning the references to "Millennium Development Goals". Those references could be amended both in the title and in the text of the background note to read "implementation of internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration".

24. **Mr. Stanislavov** (Russian Federation) welcomed the institution of the Award Programme, but wondered how the Secretariat would choose potential candidates when applications were limited to non-governmental organizations. He expressed concern at the exclusion of

the private sector, despite the fact that it had a major role to play in achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

25. **Mr. Khan** (Director of the Division for ECOSOC Support and Coordination) said that the scope of the Award was necessarily limited. While a separate project for the private sector might be envisaged, the aim of the current Programme was to identify previously unrecognized grass-roots projects that had achieved positive results. The Award was intended for civil society development initiatives at the operational level. Current development initiatives supported by the private sector were often either philanthropic or market-oriented, which raised the question of whether they should be included, given their extremely wide scope and the possibility of conflicts of interests. That was the reason for the decision to reward civil society actors.

Other matters

26. **Mr. Nteturuye** (Burundi) enquired about the official letter his country had addressed to the President of the Council in September 2002 requesting that an ad hoc advisory group be set up for Burundi. A positive response, which was still being awaited, would show that the Council was prepared to give Burundi the attention it deserved. At the time of the letter's dispatch, a peace agreement had already been signed and a transitional Government established. Since then, ceasefire agreements had been signed in Pretoria and Dar es Salaam, and only one of the three armed groups was failing to respect them. Certain technical problems associated with the implementation of the ceasefire agreements were still under negotiation.

27. At the request of the Security Council, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) had agreed to resume assistance to Burundi and donors attending the second round table in Geneva had agreed to contribute over $US 905 million in recognition of the progress achieved by the peace process. It remained to be seen whether such pledges would be promptly honoured.

28. While the war was not over, the truce was generally being observed and violations were more often than not linked to the absence of observers. The African Union had decided to send in a force, but the funds for the troops promised by various countries had still not been raised. He would be happy to provide any additional information that members might request concerning the situation in Burundi.

29. **The President** recalled that when the Council had first examined the request, it had decided that the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on African Countries Emerging from Conflict was not in a position to deal with two countries at once and that it was preferable to issue the report on Guinea-Bissau before turning to other cases. The Bureau would consider Burundi's request as soon as possible and bring it before the Council.

30. **Mr. Loulichki** (Observer for Morocco), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, expressed support for Burundi's request, which was a demonstration of faith in the United Nations system and offered an opportunity for the international community to show its solidarity. He commended Burundi for the constructive results it had achieved. Nothing in the framework resolution on such ad hoc advisory groups (2002/1) prevented the Council from giving Burundi a positive reply. Acceding to the request would also be symbolic of the political will to help countries in similar situations.

31. **The President** said that the Bureau would consider the matter in the near future.

The meeting rose at 5.20 p.m.

United Nations E/2003/SR.5

Economic and Social Council

Provisional

2 April 2003

Original: English

Organizational Session for 2003

Provisional summary record of the 5th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 5 March 2003, at 10.30 a.m.

President: Mr. Rosenthal ..... (Guatemala)

Contents

Report on the preparations for the spring meeting with the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*continued*)

Corrections to this record should be submitted in one of the working languages. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent *within one week of the date of this document* to the Chief, Official Records Editing Section, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza.

03-26820 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.50 a.m.

Report on the preparations for the spring meeting with the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization

1. **The Chairman** said that, in accordance with paragraph 69 of the Monterrey Consensus, he had been actively engaged in preparations for the spring meeting with the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization (WTO) to be held in New York on 14 April 2003. Informal consultations on the content, format, scope and desired outcome of the meeting had been held with senior representatives of those bodies, who were eager to further the momentum begun at Monterrey. Moreover, they were responding favourably to the crucial issue of high-level representation at the spring meeting. Indeed, the Bretton Woods institutions and WTO could play a crucial role in rallying senior government representatives and other national stakeholders involved in Monterrey Conference follow-up. The meeting would provide an important opportunity for interaction between policy makers in the areas of finance, trade, development cooperation, trade and foreign affairs. The primary aim was genuine, free-flowing and interactive dialogue, qualitatively different from any held previously.

2. The proposed format for the meeting had been circulated to Council members. At an opening plenary meeting, a panel of key speakers would provide an institutional view of the general theme: "Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus a year after Monterrey". Four mixed round tables would follow, chaired by United Nations, IMF, World Bank and WTO representatives. Lunch with a keynote speaker would be followed by a resumed plenary meeting and concluding meeting, with reports from the round table chairpersons. Civil society representatives would be invited to participate in the afternoon plenary meeting.

3. As further preparation for the meeting, the Council would also be holding an informal, open-ended meeting with the institutional stakeholders. The success of the spring meeting would be measured by the palpable engagement of all participants, allowing for meaningful input to the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly.

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*continued*)

Theme for the humanitarian affairs segment of the 2003 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council

4. **The President** said that, after informal consultations, the following theme had been selected for the humanitarian affairs segment of the 2003 substantive session: "Strengthening of the coordination of United Nations humanitarian assistance, with particular attention to: (a) humanitarian financing and effectiveness of humanitarian assistance; (b) transition from relief to development". The Council would also hold a panel, within the framework of the theme, on "Responding to the effects of HIV/AIDS and other widespread diseases on humanitarian relief operations".

5. **Mr. Bouchara** (Observer for Morocco), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the choice of theme represented a satisfactory compromise and showed a general desire to be constructive and positive.

6. **Mr. Psiachas** (Greece), speaking on behalf of the European Union, paid a tribute to the remarkable spirit of understanding and cooperation shown during the consultations, which he hoped would continue.

7. *The Council took note of the theme for the humanitarian affairs segment of its 2003 substantive session*

Programme of work of the operational activities segment of the substantive session of 2003

8. **The President** drew attention to the detailed programme of work for the operational activities segment of the 2003 substantive session, which represented the outcome of informal consultations.

9. *The Council took note of the detailed programme of work for the operational activities segment of the 2003 substantive session.*

Participation of intergovernmental organizations in the work of the Council (E/2002/3, E/2003/10)

10. **The President** drew attention to the applications for observer status with the Council submitted by the Intergovernmental Institution for the Use of Micro-alga Spirulina against Malnutrition and by the Common Fund for Commodities.

11. *The Council decided to grant observer status to the Intergovernmental Institution for the Use of Micro-alga Spirulina against Malnutrition and to the Common Fund for Commodities.*

Change of date and venue of the eleventh meeting of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters

12. **The President** recalled that the Council, by its decision 2002/231 of 23 July 2002, had agreed to the holding of the eleventh meeting of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters in 2003. The meeting had originally been scheduled to take place in New York from 7 to 11 April 2003; it was now proposed that the Group should meet in Geneva from 10 to 14 November 2003.

13. **Mr. de Barros** (Secretary of the Council) said that there would be no programme budget implications.

14. **The Chairman** said he took it that the Council approved the change of venue.

15. *It was so decided.*

Letter from the President of the Economic and Social Council to the Secretary-General of the United Nations (E/2003/12)

16. **The President** recalled that resolution 2002/24 had authorized him to appoint from among States members of the Council, in consultation with the Chairmen of the regional groups, the members of the Committee on Negotiations with Intergovernmental Agencies. He invited members to take note of the letter informing the Secretary-General of the appointment of the members of the Committee contained in document E/2003/12. He would like to establish the Committee's membership as soon as possible so that it could begin its work by the end of March.

17. **Mr. Talbot** (Observer for Guyana) asked whether a programme of work for the Committee had been established and whether there was a time frame for its completion.

18. **The President** said that the Committee would aim to complete its work before the beginning of the substantive session of the Council.

19. **Ms. Houngbedji** (Benin) asked whether membership in the Committee would be open-ended or limited.

20. **The President** said that the Council had decided that the membership would be limited, but be representative of the regional groups. In addition to the countries listed in his letter, Senegal, Ethiopia, Nigeria and Chile had expressed interest in participating.

21. **Mr. Benmellouk** (Observer for Morocco), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, requested time for consultation with the other members of the Group.

The meeting was suspended at 11.50 a.m. and resumed at 12.35 p.m.

22. **Mr. Benmellouk** (Observer for Morocco), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, requested that the decision on that matter should be deferred for two weeks to allow more thorough consultations.

23. *It was so decided.*

The meeting rose at 12.45 p.m.

United Nations E/2003/SR.6

Economic and Social Council

Provisional
2 April 2003

Original: English

Organization session for 2003

Provisional summary record of the 6th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 25 March 2003, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Rosenthal ..... (Guatemala)

Contents

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Corrections to this record should be submitted in one of the working languages. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent *within one week of the date of this document* to the Chief, Official Records Editing Section, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza.

03-29702 (E)

0329702

The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Letter dated 28 February 2003 from the President of the Economic and Social Council addressed to the Secretary-General (continued) (E/2003/12)

1. **The Chairman** recalled that the Council at its previous meeting had decided to postpone the appointment of members of the Committee on Negotiations with Intergovernmental Agencies in order to give interested delegations more time to indicate their desire to participate. In addition to the countries listed in his letter dated 28 February 2003 addressed to the Secretary-General (E/2003/12), Chile, Ethiopia, Malaysia, Nigeria, Senegal and South Africa had subsequently requested membership in the Committee and Gambia, Indonesia, Mexico and Morocco had expressed interest in participating as observers.

2. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to take note of the letter contained in document E/2003/12, as orally revised.

3. *It was so decided.*

The meeting rose at 10.30 a.m.

United Nations E/2003/SR.7

Economic and Social Council

Provisional

17 June 2003

Original: English

Substantive session of 2003

Provisional summary record of the 7th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 14 April 2003, at 9.30 a.m.

President: Mr. Rosenthal ..... (Guatemala)

Contents

Special high-level meeting with the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization

Corrections to this record should be submitted in one of the working languages. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent *within one week of the date of this document* to the Chief, Official Records Editing Section, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza.

03-32509 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 9.55 a.m.

Special high-level meeting with the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization

Statement by the President

1. **The President** said that the special meeting marked the first time that the Council was meeting with the Bretton Woods institutions in response to specific mandates, namely those contained in the Monterrey consensus. Also, the four multilateral organizations were represented at both the intergovernmental and managerial levels, and the World Trade Organization (WTO) was attending as a full participant. The meeting had been organized with a view to "staying engaged" in order to secure full implementation of the Monterrey Consensus. As a result of the International Conference on Financing for Development, bridges had been built at the national level between government actors and between Governments and civil society, and at the international level between the four multilateral stakeholders, non-governmental organizations and the business community.

2. He hoped that discussions would build on the latest meetings of the Development Committee and the International Monetary and Financial Committee to determine how to move forward and to generate input for the High-Level Dialogue scheduled for October 2003 as part of the General Assembly. The main objective, however, was to identify how all stakeholders could support each other in implementing the Monterrey Consensus and achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

Address by the Deputy Secretary-General on behalf of the Secretary-General

3. **The Deputy Secretary-General** said that the annual discussions between the Council and the Bretton Woods institutions increased awareness of common ground concerning problems and solutions and of participants' respective strengths and expertise. The gathering sense of common purpose boded well for the challenges ahead. The International Conference on Financing for Development had tasked the meeting to take stock of implementation of the Monterrey Consensus. The formal focus of discussion was policy coherence or how Governments, institutions and non-governmental participants could best pull together the distinct strands of economic policy into a clear framework for action that promoted development and work together — not against each other — in fulfilling the commitments made in Monterrey. One such example was that it made little sense for a Government to help dairy farmers in a developing country if that very Government was exporting subsidized milk powder to the same country.

4. Discussions were sure to cover domestic and international enabling environments, trade and investment policy, debt relief and official development assistance, and domestic and global economic governance. Although such an agenda might sound somewhat dry or abstract, it had a direct impact on human welfare. Rather than hand wringing and diagnosis, it was vital for the meeting to concentrate on how best to address the issues involved. In the context of coherence, the international community had to ask itself whether fiscal targets prevented countries ravaged by HIV/AIDS from spending more money on treatment; whether the Millennium Development Goals could be achieved if the Monterrey financial commitments were not met; whether the Doha negotiations would offer new trading opportunities to the poor or whether commitments to open global markets would continue to be undermined by subsidies, tariffs and other barriers; whether the demands for strengthened domestic governance would be matched by global reforms offering developing countries a greater voice; whether donors were understating the debt problem by overstating likely commodity price levels; whether private capital flows were being encouraged without measures to make them more stable; whether development-assistance procedures would finally be harmonized and whether labour flows would continue to be restricted while capital flows were encouraged.

5. There were also serious concerns about the economic impact of the conflict in Iraq, particularly on developing countries. Everyone had a part to play in rebuilding global confidence in the face of a world economy that had still not recovered from the 2001 slowdown and rising unemployment and uncertainty. In the Doha trade negotiations, Governments had failed to meet their deadlines in public health and agriculture. The latter was particularly critical since it was central to the negotiations themselves and also a litmus test of the coherence of developed countries' development policies. Developed countries encouraged developing

ones to eliminate subsidies while maintaining their own subsidies. The Secretary-General therefore urged developed countries to dramatically reduce agricultural subsidies in order to help the world economy, remove domestic and international trade distortions, boost the Doha negotiations and signal to developing countries that they could still hope for the development round promised to them.

6. The United Nations was the natural forum for discussing how to "stay engaged" in terms of the Monterrey Consensus. Participants could count on the Secretary-General's commitment and that of the Secretariat to helping them shape an open, inclusive and responsive multilateral process that would enable the world to achieve its development goals.

Statements by intergovernmental organizations

7. **Mr. Kavan** (President of the fifty-seventh session of the United Nations General Assembly) said that cooperation between practitioners from the fields of finance, trade, development and foreign affairs had been at the heart of the success of the Monterrey Conference. Equally important was maintaining the spirit of cooperation of the Monterrey Consensus, and the presence of all the major participants gave hope for the accelerated implementation of the Consensus and greater progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The meeting constituted a vital step in efforts to stay engaged in the Monterrey follow-up process and an opportunity to take stock of progress and pinpoint areas where more needed to be done in terms of efficiency and coherence.

8. The General Assembly had been considering how to ensure that the work of the United Nations supported the implementation of conference outcomes such as the Monterrey Consensus. Many development goals had been set by United Nations conferences over the past decade, and the Organization now had to prove its effectiveness in mobilizing the political will for their implementation. There was an urgent need to support implementation at the country level, set up effective monitoring and review mechanisms, and carry forward the Monterrey spirit. The work of the ad hoc working group on integrated conference follow-up would result in concrete recommendations to strengthen political engagement in the pursuit of development goals. The General Assembly had stressed the substantive links between the special meeting and the High-Level Dialogue to be held at the end of October as an intergovernmental focal point for the general follow-up to the Monterrey Conference. He urged high-level participation on the part of all stakeholders to ensure the continued political attention that was so important.

9. **Mr. Manuel** (Chairperson of the Development Committee, Minister of Finance of South Africa) said that the Monterrey Consensus and the agreements concluded at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg had elaborated a new partnership between developing and developed countries and their institutional partners and had set out the strategies required to succeed. During the past year, the Development Committee had signalled its intention to play an active role in moving the implementation agenda forward. As pointed out by the Deputy Secretary-General, global economic growth had slowed and faced a number of downside risks. The war in Iraq had resulted in tremendous human suffering and further increased uncertainty in that region and beyond. Lack of progress in the Doha Development Agenda had further sapped confidence. Against that backdrop, the Development Committee had reaffirmed its commitment to reducing poverty in developing and transition countries and achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

10. At its previous meeting, the Development Committee had requested the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to make a proposal enabling the Committee to monitor progress and determine what needed to be done individually and collectively to meet the Millennium Development Goals. The basis for such monitoring was the agreed division of responsibilities under which the United Nations was responsible for global and country monitoring of progress made, and the World Bank and the IMF were responsible for monitoring policies and actions at the country and global levels. Those efforts would require strong cooperation between the Bretton Woods institutions, the United Nations, WTO, multilateral development banks, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the Development Assistance Committee (DAC).

11. Developing countries needed to make further efforts to improve the environment for investment and private sector activity, strengthening capacity and governance in the public sector and increasing human capital through more effective delivery of services to the poor. As set out in the partnership agreed in Monterrey, those efforts should be matched by

developed countries increasing market access for developing country exports, debt relief and increases in the volume, predictability and effectiveness of aid. Developing countries had a vested interest in improving decision-making processes in industrialized countries. The Development Committee had also called for swift progress in implementing the agreements in the Rome Declaration on Harmonization.

12. The Development Committee had underlined the importance of anchoring efforts in country-owned strategies. It had reviewed a progress report on key social service Millennium Development Goals relating to Education For All, health, HIV/AIDS and water and sanitation and found that much remained to be done. The Committee had also asked the World Bank to report on whether developing countries' efforts were supported by appropriate financing. Millennium Development Goals could not stand alone, but had to be implemented and monitored along with infrastructure and institutional development. The Committee had also asked the World Bank and IMF to consider how developing and transition countries could be more involved in international economic policy, decision-making and norm setting. As a result, the Boards of both institutions had initiated steps to enhance capacity in the offices of the largest multi-country constituencies (Africa Group 1 and 2). The Committee had welcomed those measures and recommended that future reforms should be even more far reaching.

13. **Ms. Wieczorek-Zeul** (Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany) said that the high-level meeting was particularly important at a time when the common vision of fostering sustainable human development for all, must be returned to its rightful place at the top of the international agenda. The original task of the United Nations, to save mankind from the scourge of war, was more important than ever. She failed to understand how billions of dollars could be mobilized for war, but not for poverty alleviation. Security Council resolution 1441 (2002) had been adopted by consensus, as had General Assembly resolution 55/2, containing the Millennium Declaration's call for extreme poverty to be halved by 2015. She urged the international community to take the latter resolution as seriously as the former. The focus must be placed on humanitarian assistance to the people of Iraq and on relief, reconstruction and development in order to establish a stable, democratic and peaceful order in that country. There must be a Security Council resolution giving the United Nations a clear mandate in the reconstruction process. The Development Committee communiqué issued after its most recent meeting had stated that any World Bank lending would be contingent on such a resolution.

14. There was concern about the impact of the war on the world economy; the most recent figures indicated that the developing countries would again suffer most. The countries in the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative, in particular, were facing even more difficulty in implementing their ambitious programmes, and flexibility must be shown towards countries experiencing external shocks while trying to reach their completion points. There was a danger of a new arms race: global spending on arms had risen from $761 billion in 2000 to $839 billion in 2002. If there was a just war to be fought, it was the war on poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, environmental degradation, exclusion and injustice. The battle against want and fear was what the Millennium Development Goals, the Monterrey Consensus and the Johannesburg Programme of Action intended.

15. The German Government was committed to the principles of multilateralism, peaceful resolution of conflict, sustainable development and international solidarity. It would do its utmost to ensure that the European Union met its commitments to increase official development assistance. In fact, if the Governments of the members of the Development Committee lived up to their commitments, there would be a 30 per cent increase in official development assistance by 2006. That would still fall far short, however, of the amount needed for full implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. The developed countries must keep their promises if they took the fight against poverty seriously.

16. While increased external financing of development was important, good governance of the domestic level was key. Her Government had approached the business community in an effort to reverse the decline in foreign direct investment in developing countries through public and private partnerships. Good domestic governance must be matched by global governance, with the high-level meeting as a good example of that concept. A comprehensive approach was needed that would involve the developing countries in decision-making by

the international financial institutions as part of their own ongoing reforms.

17. She reiterated the proposal first made at the Millennium Assembly to set up an "economic security council" to ensure policy coherence and transparency at the global level. Along those lines, a fair and inclusive international trading system was crucial, and she called on all Governments to reform their agricultural policies to create real change in market access, which had proven to be a stumbling block to the success of the Doha Round of trade negotiations. A rapid resolution must also be found to the problem of access to vital medicines in developing countries.

18. **Ms. Whelan** (Chairperson of the Trade Policy Review Committee, World Trade Organization (WTO)) said that she was frequently surprised at the misconceptions about the World Trade Organization and would therefore describe some aspects of its intergovernmental machinery. WTO operated on the basis of consensus. Its governing body was made up of all 146 member countries, with developing countries making up about 75 per cent of its membership. Between the Ministerial Meetings, which took place every two years, its governing body was the General Council, which consisted of the permanent representatives to WTO. Policy coherence and coordination must start at the national level, and bottom-up rather than top-down coordination worked best. If coherence was to be a reality, commitments made by political leaders at international conferences must be translated into instructions to representatives at the United Nations, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund and to international trade negotiators.

19. WTO was intensely conscious of the crucial role that it played both in terms of coherence and in promoting sustainable development. Every part of the Doha Ministerial Declaration had a strong development perspective, which had been carried forward into the negotiations and the strengthening of the WTO relationship with the Bank, the Fund and the United Nations. As the WTO agenda and membership had expanded, successive rounds of trade negotiations had become more complex. Continued success depended on the fact that all participants conceded entry into their domestic markets in return for concessions from others. At the end of a Round, all participants must believe that the gains were worth the concessions that they were making. The Doha Round differed from others because of its efforts to ensure that the concerns of developing countries were embedded in the negotiating process. A deeper understanding had been reached of the role of trade in development, with a move away from the simplistic notion that rapid trade liberalization in all sectors was beneficial, along with a greater understanding of the costs of protectionism.

20. WTO was very much aware that the Doha Round was taking place against the background of intense international turbulence, and particular challenges to the global economy. The Doha agenda was very ambitious, with the goal of concluding negotiations by 1 January 2005. The timetable with a series of deadlines leading up to the Cancun meeting had not been met, but it had served the purpose of giving impetus and urgency to those efforts. In taking stock of what had been achieved and where there was a need to catch up, she said that the negotiating machinery had been established relatively quickly, and a programme of meetings set up to take into account the needs of smaller delegations. Efforts had been made to ensure that consultations were representative of the full membership. Groups and individual members had submitted proposals, and the process of developing consensus in less problematic areas and identifying the parameters for solutions in more contentious areas was advancing.

21. More effort was needed before the Cancun meeting in the areas of agriculture, special and differential treatment for developing countries, access to medicines, and the Singapore issues. In her view, the political will existed to address those issues, but the difficulty arose in giving practical expression to that will. Individual members would view the acceptability of the outcome from the overall balance of pain and gain which emerged, but it would be difficult to make concessions before the shape of the likely package became clear. Confidence was essential to a balanced outcome, and that confidence was being steadily built.

22. Turning to the note prepared by the Secretary-General (E/2003/50), she pointed out that the Secretary-General had highlighted the potential of the WTO trade policy reviews for enhancing coherence. That mechanism was intended to provide a regular collective evaluation of a member's trade policies and practices, not to impose new policy commitments. As more and more developing countries incorporated a trade dimension into their nationally owned poverty reduction strategies, that mechanism could provide an

opportunity to consider national trade policy in the wider context of national planning and poverty reduction. Trade capacity-building was another issue of interest to WTO, and its Doha Development Agenda Global Trust Fund, established to provide technical assistance in that area, was likely to be fully funded. There were a number of initiatives under way aimed at building trade capacity, and a review of the Integrated Framework, which had been established to bring coherence to the situation, might be useful.

23. **Mr. Siniora** (Chairperson of the Intergovernmental Group of 24 on International Monetary Affairs and Development) said that the Ministers of the Group of 24, at their most recent meeting on 11 April, had observed that since their previous meeting, the global economic recovery had been much weaker than anticipated and the outlook remained highly uncertain. That situation had been exacerbated by the war in Iraq, which had serious implications not only for Iraq but for the entire region. Against a backdrop of geopolitical uncertainties and rapidly changing conditions, the Ministers had called for the strengthening of the international cooperative effort through the establishment of a stable international economic and financial environment, progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, and advancement of the multilateral trade negotiations under the Doha Round, encompassing in particular the elimination of trade-distorting agricultural subsidies and domestic support schemes in advanced countries. Moreover, the international financial institutions must respond flexibly to the needs of member countries.

24. Heightened global uncertainty underlined concerns regarding international decision-making. The international and multilateral approach, which for sixty years had been the backbone of the effort to promote peace and development, was currently under stress. In an era of globalization and interdependence, it was more important than ever to reaffirm that cooperative compact. The developing countries had pursued policy reforms, but any progress had been achieved at the cost of lower growth rates, slower development and social pressures. International institutions must support them in those efforts by responding with flexibility to their needs to help restore confidence and, thereby, capital flows.

25. Many developing countries had taken bold and politically difficult steps to open their markets, and it was time for the developed countries to show equal boldness in opening their markets to the products of developing countries in turn, especially in the areas of agriculture, textiles and clothing. It was disturbing to note that net private capital flows were from low-income countries to developed countries, and unless those trends changed, the Millennium Development Goals for those countries would not be reached.

26. At Monterrey, the international community had formed a compact to allow all to move forward on the path to development and enhance the benefits of globalization. The Ministers of the Group of 24 strongly believed in the multilateral, cooperative institutional approach, which had long been the backbone of efforts to promote peace and development. The international community must reaffirm that approach to ensure a better future for all.

27. **Mr. Aninat** (Deputy Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)) said that the International Monetary and Financial Committee, at its seventh meeting, held in Washington, D.C., on 13 April 2003, had renewed the commitment of the international community to address the challenges facing the global economy, which had been further complicated by the war in Iraq, and had called on the Fund to stand ready to provide appropriate support to member countries affected by the conflict. The Committee had stressed the need for concerted action in all countries to foster a strong and balanced recovery, reduce vulnerability to shocks and make more rapid progress towards the Millennium Development Goals.

28. Summarizing the main points of the communiqué issued by the Committee, he said that, while the global economy was expected to recover, there remained risks and uncertainties. Safeguarding global growth prospects would require sustained attention to sound policies and the readiness to adjust them flexibly as required. Many countries had made progress in improving their economic fundamentals, but further structural reforms were needed across the membership to restore confidence and strengthen the foundations of global economic growth.

29. The advanced economies had already put in place the necessary stimuli to foster rapid recovery. However, there was a need to strengthen key structural reforms for the reasons enumerated above. Many emerging market economies, particularly in Latin America, had increased their resilience to adverse

global developments by adopting sound economic policies, including more sustainable exchange rate regimes. The Committee had encouraged those countries that had built up room for manoeuvre to continue to respond flexibly to shocks; those facing external constraints should redouble their efforts to re-establish sustainable external positions. Corporate, financial and institutional reforms to support the emerging recovery and underpin growth by encouraging private investment were a priority in all emerging countries.

30. Low-income countries as a group had made important strides in improving their economic policies, putting them in a better position to deal with the adverse effects of the global economic slowdown. Many had used debt relief available under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Debt Initiative to increase substantially spending on poverty reduction. Those countries, however, remained vulnerable to shocks. The Committee had stressed that a concerted international effort was needed to accelerate their progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, including additional financial and technical assistance and improved access for their exports to markets in developed countries.

31. Timely progress towards multilateral trade liberalization in the context of the Doha Round would be critical to all those efforts. It would send a strong signal demonstrating the international commitment to multilateralism, strengthen global confidence and contribute to the recovery from the current global economic downturn, as well as increasing resilience to shocks and helping developing countries to benefit more fully from globalization. The Committee had therefore called on all countries to intensify their efforts to remove obstacles to further progress in the run-up to the World Trade Organization (WTO) ministerial meeting to be held in Cancun, Mexico, in September.

32. The Committee had expressed its firm support for the critical role played by the Fund in furthering progress by low-income countries towards the Millennium Development Goals within the operational framework provided by poverty reduction strategy papers, noting the need for enhanced coordination and harmonization of donor policies. It had encouraged eligible countries to overcome the obstacles to their participation in the HIPC Debt Initiative and urged creditors to participate fully in its financing. In addition, it had stressed the importance of long-term debt sustainability and approved the development of an analytical framework for making such assessments.

33. The Committee had endorsed the Fund's strategy for helping to prevent crises. In that connection, he noted that members' experience relating to the Financial Sector Assessment Programme and the standards and codes process had been positive. Further progress was needed, however, in focusing policy advice on reducing members' vulnerabilities, analysing the spillover effects of policies in countries of systemic or regional importance, and deepening the Fund's dialogue with countries on available policy trade-offs and options.

34. As to crisis resolution, the Committee had welcomed the development of criteria to guide decisions on access to Fund resources and facilities in the event of capital account crises. Regarding debt ratios, the extensive discussions surrounding efforts to formulate a proposal for a statutory sovereign debt restructuring mechanism had, in the Committee's view, promoted a better understanding of related issues. In that connection, it had noted with satisfaction the inclusion of collective action clauses in international bond issues.

35. The Committee considered that the Fund's current liquidity position was adequate but looked forward to an in-depth discussion of the adequacy of the Fund's resources to fulfil its financial responsibilities. It had called for a distribution of quotas that reflected developments in the world economy and for further efforts to ensure that members had a voice and representation in the governance of the institution. The attainment of the Millennium Development Goals would require a coherent approach by all. However, policy coherence would be achieved mainly at the country level.

36. A key challenge in the coming years would be the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development. In that connection, he was pleased to note that all parties supported the two-pronged approach outlined in the document and agreed on the need to increase official development assistance, broaden access to markets for products from developing countries and eliminate trade distortions. Lastly, he emphasized that while sound policies and effective institutions were necessary, peace and

political stability were also of critical importance for achieving sustainable development.

37. **Mr. Zhang** Shengman (Managing Director of the World Bank) said that the Bank was contributing to increased coherence, coordination and cooperation at the country level, among institutions, and among and between developed and developing countries, with a view to the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus.

38. All development actors now recognized that, in order to achieve coherence at the country level, there was a need to support country-owned and country-led strategies implemented within the framework of poverty reduction strategy papers; the Bank was working closely with the United Nations Development Group to that end. To date, 27 poverty reduction strategy papers and 45 interim documents had been completed. The poverty reduction strategy paper was, however, an evolving instrument which would be enhanced by the application of lessons learned.

39. With regard to cooperation among institutions, there had been impressive progress in strengthening the traditional partnerships between the Bank and IMF and between the Bretton Woods institutions and the United Nations system. In addition, steps had been taken to enhance the Bank's collaboration with WTO, regional development banks, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the OECD Development Assistance Committee. There had been separate but equally important initiatives to improve relations with civil society.

40. Most recently, heads of bilateral and multilateral development institutions, and 28 partner countries, had adopted the Rome Declaration on Harmonization, which contained commitments on harmonizing operational policies, procedures and practices. Despite those achievements, much remained to be done. In particular, there was a need to identify areas in which there were gaps or overlapping.

41. Lastly, the Monterrey Consensus called for increased cooperation among and between developed and developing countries. In that connection, he noted that the global monitoring framework proposed by the Bank and IMF would serve as a basis for regular monitoring of the policies and actions needed, including on the part of developed and developing countries, to reach the Millennium Development Goals. The implementation of the global monitoring framework would require close collaboration with the United Nations system and other partners. However, the excellent cooperation already established between the Bank, IMF and the United Nations augured well in that regard.

42. **Mr. Thompson-Flores** (Deputy Director-General of the World Trade Organization (WTO)) said that world economic and political developments in the period since the launching of the Doha Round of multilateral trade negotiations, which had been marked by slow growth, uncertainty and now conflict, had served to underscore the importance of strengthening the multilateral system and achieving a positive outcome in the Round.

43. The picture thus far was encouraging. Ambitious proposals had been made with respect to services and market access, and there had been significant progress in discussions to improve the rules of the system. Also, useful work had been done in clarifying core issues and national positions concerning investment, competition, trade facilitation and transparency in government procurement.

44. However, members remained far apart on the crucial question of agricultural liberalization. They had also failed to overcome differences on trade-related intellectual property rights and public health, special and differential treatment for developing countries, and implementation of WTO rules. Consequently, deadlines had been missed, raising questions about the overall pace of the Round.

45. Difficult political decisions would have to be made quickly if members were to move the process forward by the time of the WTO ministerial meeting in Cancun. The temptation to put off those decisions must be resisted since the Doha Development Agenda was too complex for a balanced deal to be put together at the last moment. It was also important to maintain the trust and enthusiasm of the developing countries. They had embraced open trade as the key to their growth and development.

46. However, without significant progress on the issues of interest to them — market access, lower agricultural subsidies and public health — the idea of a development round risked becoming a hollow slogan. As to the major players, the United States and Europe, they must demonstrate continued political commitment and leadership and adopt more flexible positions on

sensitive issues. Narrow interests must be re-examined in the context of pursuing the greater good.

47. The challenges just outlined were considerable. The Doha Round, with more than 140 participants, was the most ambitious and wide-ranging round of trade negotiations ever undertaken. But the ambition of the Round also presented countries with a tremendous opportunity. The welfare gains from eliminating trade barriers could amount to more than $250 billion annually, with as much as half accruing to developing countries, easily dwarfing overseas aid and many times what poor countries had been granted in debt relief.

48. A successful Round would also reinforce the underpinnings of the global economy and signal a renewed commitment to multilateral cooperation at a time when multilateralism seemed to be under threat. WTO must succeed. There could be no growth, no development and no poverty reduction without trade, and only through WTO could countries build an economic system based on rules, not power. While multilateralism could be slow and sometimes frustrating, it was indispensable for managing today's interdependent world economy.

49. **The President** said that all of those present had a common vision and a shared commitment to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals and the implementation of General Assembly resolution 55/2. Noting that the Monterrey Consensus was a road map for efforts in that direction, he urged the participants in the four round tables that morning to focus on its implementation.

The meeting rose at 11.25 a.m.

United Nations E/2003/SR.8

Economic and Social Council

Provisional

16 June 2003

Original: English

Special high-level meeting with the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization

Provisional summary record of the 8th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 14 April 2003, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. Rosenthal ..... (Guatemala)

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03-32512 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

Reports by the four Chairpersons of the Round Tables

1. **The President** invited the Chairpersons of the four Round Table meetings on the theme: "Increased coherence, coordination and cooperation for implementation of the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development at all levels one year after the Conference" to report on their discussions.

2. **Mr. Manuel** (South Africa), Chairperson of Round Table 1, said that discussion had focused on systemic issues in the multilateral system, and three matters had been identified for closer examination: coherence of action, implementation of measures and giving a voice to all decision makers.

3. As the discussions had progressed, so too had common threads which were probably also present in the discussions of the other Round Tables. Firstly, the raison d'être of all multilateral institutions should be examined; it was often taken for granted and rarely debated. Secondly, the position of multilateral institutions was different from that of their member States and of sovereign States in general; that difference should be taken into account. Thirdly, unless time was taken to assess what had already been accomplished and what tasks lay ahead, it would be impossible to manage change.

4. Discussion of coherence of action had led to five conclusions. The first was that the ability of countries to report to multilateral bodies was in inverse proportion to their gross domestic product, so donors should make few and simple demands on recipients. The second was that everyone should recognize multilateral institutions as part of the system of global governance and attach value to membership of those institutions. The third was that proposals by non-governmental organizations to draw up an "index of coherence" would be a powerful motivator. The fourth was that donors should be guided by the needs of the recipients of assistance rather than by the need to maintain popularity with their domestic electorates. The fifth was that the Millennium Development Goals should be taken as a focus, and they should be recognized as operating against a very varied background.

5. Discussion of implementation of measures had likewise led to five conclusions. The first was that diversity should be acknowledged and "one-size-fits-all" solutions rejected. The second was that donors should make an unequivocal commitment to provide market access for goods from developing countries; that meant not only setting aside measures like the Multifibre Arrangement (MFA) and agricultural preferences, but also contemplating "affirmative action" for developing-country goods. The third was that an in-depth examination of the selection of leaders of multilateral institutions was needed; the principles of transparency and of considering all candidates should be upheld. The fourth was that agreements should be implemented as efficiently as possible on the ground; a good example was the coordinated approach to some African countries taken by the Netherlands and Sweden. The fifth was that the capacities of recipients varied; that variation in turn affected recipients' ability to cope with debt and implementation of projects.

6. Discussion of giving a voice to all decision makers had also led to five conclusions. The first was that the approaching sixtieth anniversary of the founding of the Bretton Woods institutions should be seen as an opportunity for rebirth, with a re-examination of their roles and methods. The second was that voting power in decision-making should be redistributed; the Round Table had been unable to establish who would lose power and who would gain power, but it agreed that redistribution did not mean giving everyone a fair share simply by creating more votes. The fourth was that partnership meant partnership: where countries were asked to take a risk, their risk-taking should receive a commensurate reward (in the case of poor countries, for example, a guarantee of improved living standards). The fifth was that some countries would achieve a greater say in decision-making through regional groupings; arrangements should be made to accommodate such groupings.

7. **Ms. Frafjord Johnson** (Observer for Norway), Chairperson of Round Table 2, said that discussion had focused on the role of financial cooperation in the Monterrey Consensus, and more particularly on the compact between developed and developing countries.

8. The first area examined had been flows of funding to developing countries. The Round Table had agreed that official development assistance (ODA) could contribute to achieving the Millennium Development Goals, but was still insufficient.

Assistance should be increased, not just in quantity, but in quality. A search for new and innovative methods should be launched, including such options as private funding and the proposal for a new financing facility made by the United Kingdom. The quality of assistance would be improved first and foremost by addressing developing countries' complaints about existing arrangements. That entailed reducing transaction costs, resolving conflicts between individual programmes, coping with the demands of Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) and minimizing the time-lag between the agreement to release funds and actual disbursement of those funds. The proliferation of mechanisms and funds could easily lead to less efficient aid, however, as developing countries struggled to cope with different reporting requirements. Finally, if developing countries performed poorly, care should be taken not to penalize their populations.

9. The second area examined was debt. The debt initiative for the heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) did not necessarily produce a sustainable level of debt for poor countries, which were at the mercy of factors such as fluctuating commodity prices. Debt-servicing obligations often impeded debt reduction, as any new debt needed to be repaid. Countries outside the HIPC initiative, such as Kenya, with its new Government, were also in serious difficulty. consideration should be given to how the Sovereign Debt Restructuring Mechanism (SDRM) proposed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) could help the debt situation.

10. The third area examined was implementation, particularly the proposal for a "development policy review mechanism" inspired by the Trade Policy Review Mechanism (TPRM) of the World Trade Organization (WTO). The aim was to provide a forum for intergovernmental discussion of how assistance was provided, but the question of how to organize it remained open.

11. **Ms. Whelan** (Ireland), Chairperson of Round Table 3, said that discussion had focused on policy coherence in trade and investment, involving Governments, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and multilateral institutions.

12. The opinions of the Round Table participants on the Doha development round of multilateral trade negotiations were divided: some saw a "glass half-full", while others saw a "glass half-empty". Clearly, the level of focus on development depended not on the title of negotiations, but on their content. The negotiations would serve the needs of development only if they provided better market access for developing countries. That meant eliminating tariff peaks, ending tariff escalation, dismantling non-tariff barriers and dealing with developed countries' agricultural subsidies.

13. Other issues considered were the worryingly slow pace of progress in introducing special and differential treatment for developing countries, preventing environmental standards from being used as a cover for protectionism, taking account of gender issues and labour standards and providing trade-related technical assistance to improve the capacities of developing countries. The participants had taken the view that the "Singapore issues" (investment, competition policy, transparency in Government procurement and trade facilitation) should be unbundled and considered separately from each other. What was needed was a trade system which was conducive to the development of all countries, especially developing countries.

14. **Mr. Oualalou** (Observer for Morocco), Chairperson of Round Table 4, said that discussion had focused on five issues which were central to translating the Monterrey Consensus into action. The first was acknowledging that partnership between developed and developing countries was at the heart of the Consensus. Partnership should be made to evolve from a concept into a reality. The second was the need to give partnership a basis of agreed policy: quality of dialogue was vital to ensure that differences in the situations of countries and economic sectors could be accommodated, and to bridge the gaps in approach between international organizations regarding debt, trade and aid. The third was the interest which developing countries had in improving governance: that would increase the commitment of developed countries, help to attract more investment and improve economic performance. Similarly, there were gains to be made from improving international governance in political, economic and financial terms. The fourth was the need for developing countries to make progress in improving macroeconomic policies by introducing sound budgetary, inflation, savings, investment and interest-rate practices. That would encourage solidarity in reducing poverty. The fifth was the need to examine sectoral policies, since they had an effect on poverty and growth. Sectors in need of reform included

administration, finance and agriculture (with particular emphasis on developed countries' agricultural policies). Above all, reform needed continuity to succeed.

15. The Round Table had concluded that national policies should take account of regional cooperation, and that if developing countries made a greater commitment to improving governance, they would be seen as having a greater right to be heard in international forums, especially the Bretton Woods institutions.

16. **The President** said that the Round Tables had been so successful in avoiding duplication and presenting their discussions coherently that he wished to suggest that abbreviated minutes of their outcome should be circulated, not as agreed conclusions, but rather as the Chairpersons' assessments of their findings.

17. *It was so decided.*

Exchange of views among participants

18. **Mr. Oualalou** (Observer for Morocco), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said it was paramount to mobilize the necessary political will in order to bring about the real, effective and prompt implementation of the commitments made at Monterrey. The Group of 77 and China were encouraged by the involvement of the Bretton Woods institutions in the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and in the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals, as well as by efforts to establish methods of evaluating and monitoring the implementation of the commitments made both by developing and by developed countries. The Monterrey Consensus had created a partnership between those countries. While the developing countries were primarily responsible for their economic and social development, the developed countries had an obligation to bring about an international environment conducive to development, and ensure that their policies were coherent and compatible with the achievement of international development goals.

19. Although the developing countries had begun to improve their macroeconomic policies, little progress had been made in a number of areas. In the area of trade, the deadlines established at Doha had not been fulfilled. Protectionism and the granting of subsidies had increased, and the attitude shown by the developed partners during WTO trade negotiations gave cause for deep concern. The world was indeed far from making trade the catalyst for economic progress and poverty reduction. Furthermore, ODA was continuing to decrease, and the international community was far from attaining the goal of allocating 0.7 per cent of the gross domestic product for that purpose. In addition, measures must urgently be taken to ease the external debt of the HIPCs as well as of middle-income countries, in order to free up resources for poverty reduction and human development.

20. There was an urgent need to strengthen the participation of developing countries in decision-making within the international financial institutions. The efforts already made to improve the representation of developing countries, particularly African countries, were gratifying, and it was to be hoped that concrete decisions would be taken at the annual meeting of the World Bank Group and IMF to be held at Dubai in September 2003.

21. The time had also come to strengthen coordination between the United Nations and the international financial institutions and WTO, which must fully integrate United Nations development goals into their policies. In that regard, the Group of 77 and China reiterated its appeal for support to the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) on the part of the international financial institutions and donor countries. The stabilization of export earnings from commodities was another question of paramount importance to the developing countries, and to the African countries in particular.

22. **Mr. Vassilakis** (Greece), speaking on behalf of the European Union, the acceding countries Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia, and the associated countries Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey, said that the role and expertise of the Bretton Woods institutions and WTO were critical to the development process, and that the contribution of civil society and the private sector offered important content and ideas. The European Union was convinced of the importance of the Monterrey Consensus in establishing concrete commitments and recognizing the role of all relevant stakeholders. That partnership compact was critical for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and the alleviation of poverty.

23. While each country was responsible for its own economic development, a sound national macroeconomic environment and an enabling investment climate were the basis for sustainable development and economic growth, in a conducive environment, the private sector could be a driving force for development. The European Union was committed to working with partners to ensure progress under the Doha development agenda, so as to make the Fifth Ministerial Conference of WTO a success. It was also committed to helping developing countries to benefit from trade; it would provide increased support for trade-related assistance and was implementing a new strategy in that area. A key element was enhanced trade-related capacity-building to address supply-side constraints. The European Union had made regional integration and support for South-South trade one of its priorities, and was, inter alia, working to negotiate Economic Partnership Agreements with the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries.

24. The European Union, which was the largest provider of ODA, believed that increasing such assistance was essential to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals. The member States were committed to reaching an average of 0.39 per cent of gross national income by 2006, as a step towards achieving the 0.7 per cent target, which should result in billions more assistance each year. The European Union was also convinced that such an increase must be accompanied by greater effectiveness and accountability in programmes and greater harmonization of donor policies. Committed to making progress in harmonization by 2004, it had initiated actions at the European level and among member States. A four-country pilot initiative had been launched, on the basis of which an action plan would be formulated and measures taken. The European Union welcomed the progress made by the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development in that respect.

25. The European Union would continue to support the work of the International Task Force on Global Public Goods, and to take an active part in clarifying related issues. It welcomed progress made in the context of the enhanced HIPC initiative, and recognized the need for more work on the issue of debt sustainability.

26. The European Union favoured working towards global coherence and participation, and welcomed efforts to strengthen the voice of developing countries in international economic decision-making. Cooperation between the United Nations, the international financial institutions and WTO was the key element in strengthening the international financial system and implementing the Monterrey Consensus. The European Union looked forward to the follow-up to the Monterrey Conference, and would conduct its own follow-up review in May 2003. It also looked forward to the high-level dialogue at the United Nations General Assembly, which would be an occasion for taking stock.

27. **Mr. Minoves-Triquell** (Andorra) said it was essential to reaffirm the role of the United Nations in building peace in Iraq and ensuring progress and democracy for the Iraqi people. The Security Council would have to formulate a resolution concerning the material and political reconstruction of Iraq and meeting its humanitarian needs; Andorra had pledged to contribute to United Nations funds for the most pressing humanitarian aid. Iraq would have to face the humanitarian and developmental challenges which the Bretton Woods institutions and WTO had already started to examine. The new Iraq would have to arise from the will of the Iraqi people; in that process, the United Nations, the Security Council and the Council would have a role to play.

28. While the world focused its attention on Iraq, underdevelopment continued to affect the majority of the world's people, particularly in Africa. It was essential to bring about a progressive increase in ODA, while accurately controlling the programmes for the distribution of such funds; in addition, States receiving help must ensure its efficient use according to the principles of good governance. Such multilateral organizations as IMF, the World Bank and WTO must, pursuant to the Doha development agenda, develop coherent, coordinated policies that took into account the unique character of each country. In that regard, it was important to be aware of the fragility of small economies.

29. Since 1995, Andorra had increased contributions towards development one hundredfold, and had created a new general directorate at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in charge of development cooperation and multilateral relations. The Andorran people were actively involved in that process, and many private

citizens made donations for development. Andorra would continue to work with the international community to create a world in which there was both justice and opportunities for all.

30. **Mr. Passacantando** (World Bank) said that the World Bank and IMF took their interaction with the United Nations very seriously, as attested by the large delegations they had brought to the meeting despite the fact that they were there more to listen than to contribute to the debate. The round-table discussions had fostered a more practical and less rhetorical debate, and it would be useful to consider allotting even more time to them in future.

31. It was highly unusual for a communiqué from the International Monetary and Financing Committee to make reference to a forthcoming United Nations Security Council resolution. The stipulation that no funds would be provided for the reconstruction of Iraq unless the United Nations played a role in that reconstruction presented a major challenge. In the coming weeks, the ability of all participants to coordinate their activities would be tested.

32. The World Bank was committed to the recommendation in the Monterrey Consensus that existing institutions should be relied on. It was working with the boards of the Bretton Woods institutions, as well as with the International Monetary and Financing Committee, the Development Committee and the current meeting of the Council on several fronts, and had recently undertaken important initiatives, including, for example, the establishment of more transparent mechanisms for the selection of presidents. The Board of the World Bank was also considering means of increasing the voice and participation of developing countries in its work, with attention to the special difficulties presented by African countries. It was clearly time to implement new ideas.

33. **Mr. Simón** (Observer for Mexico) said that a year after the International Conference on Financing for Development, an effort should be made honestly to evaluate all that had been done to fulfil the commitments made in the Monterrey Consensus. It was clear that those goals must be translated into effective long-term actions and initiatives, so as to create conditions for the recovery and lasting stability of the developing countries. His government believed that it was essential to strengthen the multilateral framework, because that was where solid, suitable policies could be formulated for resolving the problems facing humanity. Mexico would be hosting the Fifth Ministerial Conference of WTO, where decisions would be made which would determine whether the development round could be finalized within the timeline set in the Doha development agenda. There was still much to be done before the date of the Conference; and it was essential to focus on attaining the necessary consensus to ensure the success of the development round.

34. Mexico would continue to work to support the formulation of mechanisms to meet the needs of the developing countries. It supported the efforts of IMF to establish guidelines for the management of public debt and stressed the need to increase technical support to the developing countries in order to enhance their risk management capacities. In that regard, Mexico had recently issued sovereign bonds containing collective action clauses.

35. In order to attain the Millennium Development Goals and the objectives of the Monterrey Consensus, ODA must be increased considerably. The industrialized countries must agree on an assistance scheme, and work with developing countries towards greater flexibility in the transfer of resources. Mexico was both a recipient and a donor of ODA, providing assistance in particular to neighbouring countries. The Plan Puebla Panama, a Meso-American development programme, fulfilled the principles both of the Millennium Development Goals and of the Monterrey Consensus. Mexico remained firmly committed to the Monterrey Consensus, and hoped that the current meeting would contribute towards making it a useful and effective instrument for the consolidation of a multilateral system.

36. **Mr. Majanen** (Finland) said that it had been aptly noted that the question of the voice of the developing countries was related to rights, voting powers and influence. That was not a new or separate issue, but one that was expressed in the Millennium Development Goals. Rights made no sense if countries lacked the capacities and capabilities necessary for their use. It had not, however, been pointed out that partnership was also a matter of attitudes, and required new, more reciprocal and equitable relationships. By way of an example, he said that the Helsinki Process provided a forum for an equitable and multi-value dialogue among all stakeholders. The Process, which called for comprehensive, open participation, was still

under way. More information was available from his delegation.

37. **Mr. Schydlowsky** (Peru) said there was general agreement on the need for greater resources for development, and also that part of those resources should derive from private capital markets and from privatization of national assets in order to free them for investment in new development structures. There was, however, a serious problem that hampered the implementation of such a process. In Latin America, as well as in some other parts of the world, when an investment was made, it automatically increased the public cost and thus also the public deficit. Since deficits were used to mark goals both in domestic arrangements and in agreements with IMF, such investments marred the attainment of those goals. That peculiar custom impaired the possibility of fulfilling the Monterrey Consensus and should be reviewed and rectified.

38. **Mr. Cox** (Observer for the Commonwealth Secretariat) said that a Commonwealth Action Plan for delivering the Monterrey Consensus at the national, international and Commonwealth levels had been agreed on at the meeting of Commonwealth Finance Ministers held in September 2002. Action contemplated at the international level fell under the heading of political and corporate governance, comprising such factors as legal systems, inclusion of civil society, democracy-building, participation, and avoidance of exclusion, and under that of capacity-building, especially in light of the severe constraints on the capacities of many developing countries resulting from overwhelming demand as well as shortages of the human resources needed to deal with a complex world. The Commonwealth Secretariat had found that concentrating on trade capacity-building to strengthen member countries' ability to participate in the formulation of trade policy and the negotiation of trade agreements held great potential for achieving the Millennium Development Goals and implementing the Monterrey Consensus.

39. **Mr. de Santa Clara Gomes** (Portugal) said that he fully supported the statement made by the representative of Greece on behalf of the European Union, and called for the establishment of a partnership between the developed countries and LDCs in the interests of attaining Millennium Development Goals. The lack of viable partners on the LDC side was a serious obstacle to such a partnership and highlighted the great need for capacity-building, because so few LDC Governments currently had the capacity to participate in equal exchanges. That lack of capacity had the added side-effect of seriously curtailing those countries' margins for error in policy formulation, compared with the developed countries. The LDCs therefore required assistance to develop policies and strategies that facilitated full participation, and to try to diminish the negative consequences of policy errors. In that regard, there was also a clear need to make the international system more accessible to LDCs and to facilitate their participation in it, both by strengthening their capacities and by fostering a genuine willingness on the part of the developed countries to enter into partnership with them.

40. **Ms. Viotti** (Brazil) said that while an unprecedented degree of international consensus existed with regard to the measures necessary to promote development and attain the Millennium Development Goals, that consensus had yet to produce the practical changes needed to ensure actual progress towards those goals. Frustration was growing among the developing countries because negotiations did not appear to be achieving the hoped-for results. The current dialogue between the Council and the Bretton Woods institutions was therefore of crucial importance for the realization of the goals of Monterrey and other recent conferences in that regard.

41. **Ms. Deily** (United States of America) said that the United States was emphasizing the importance of focusing assistance on countries with strong policy performance, measuring the concrete results of that assistance, and strengthening the management of public resources. In that context, President Bush had requested the United States Congress to allocate US$ 1.3 billion for the Millennium Challenge Account for 2003, increasing to US$ 5 billion per year by 2006, as part of a detailed plan for operationalizing the Monterrey Consensus. He had also requested nearly US$ 15 billion to combat the global HIV/AIDS epidemic through 2008.

42. In 2002, WTO had established a global trust fund to provide financial assistance and training to enable countries to participate fully in trade negotiations. That assistance had been expanded from US$ 10 million to US$ 20 million in 2002 and then to US$ 24 million in 2003, and was being further complemented by bilateral support on the part of a number of countries around the globe. In that context, the United States had

contributed US$ 638 million in technical assistance related to trade issues in 2002, while all key officers in the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) were being trained in the importance of technical assistance as a means to foster development and poverty-alleviation initiatives. Those and other measures exemplified the relative success of efforts to achieve coherence in implementing the Monterey Consensus. Annual evaluations of the WTO trust fund itself were being performed in order to provide a clearer idea of issues remaining to be addressed.

43. **Mr. Grant** (United Kingdom), referring to the statement made by the representative of Greece on behalf of the European Union, emphasized the commitment of the United Kingdom to the Monterrey Consensus and to sustaining action for its implementation. With regard to policy coherence, his delegation viewed country-level poverty-reduction activity and monitoring frameworks in developing countries as central to achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Efforts in those areas needed to be coordinated with national systems and budget processes, so as to ensure that developing countries were not saddled with additional burdens. In the area of trade, his delegation viewed the Doha development agenda as central, and believed that the barriers associated with the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) and barriers to special and differential treatment could and should be overcome as rapidly as possible, so as to allow attention to be focused on other complex issues, particularly in the area of agriculture.

44. Development assistance targets were affordable and achievable; the United Kingdom was increasing its own levels of assistance, and was joining Norway in proposing the establishment of an international finance facility as an innovative scheme to raise the additional resources of up to US$ 50 billion per year through 2015 required to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. It would not be a separate implementation agency, but simply a financing mechanism designed to meet the shortfall. Finally, his delegation had been working closely with others to develop ideas on "enhancing the voice and participation of developing and transition countries", and remained committed to taking that work forward in whatever forums were set up to discuss it.

45. **Mr. D'Alotto** (Argentina) said that his delegation wished to associate itself with the statement made by the representative of Morocco on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. The Monterrey Consensus was a fundamental turning point in the work of the Organization in the economic and social sphere, and provided guidelines for continuing work in that area. However, his delegation viewed with concern the international trade situation one year after the Monterrey summit; the threat of recession had not receded, hopes for an international conference on development remained unrealized, and protectionist measures were growing in scope. If countries were not allowed to compete on the basis of their comparative advantages, they would be unable to obtain the hard currency they needed to service their debts. Aware of its responsibility to heal its economy, Argentina had no intention of cutting itself off from the international financial community, but it also viewed the attainment of an international trade environment free of tariff barriers and subsidies as a legitimate aspiration.

46. Argentina had achieved a fragile recovery, and all candidates in its upcoming elections had agreed that the failure to control fiscal policy, which had given rise to the previous crisis, had been a serious error. While welcoming the necessary debate on the evolving role of IMF, Argentina insisted that each country should be accorded individual and flexible consideration during negotiations with that body. IMF voting structures should be updated so as to give greater latitude to developing markets and reduce the current distortions in world trade. Finally, he stressed that an exclusive preoccupation with matters of security, without consideration for the concerns and problems of the developing world, would serve only to increase the threat to the security of all.

47. **Mr. Piedra** (Observer for the Holy See) said that the integration of LDCs into the world market could only be achieved through an integral approach. While fair trade relations constituted an essential component of economic and human development, economic freedom was only one aspect of human freedom. Economic activities must be pursued within the broader context of human development, the promotion of human rights, and the dignity of the human person, especially the all-embracing policies and targets of the family of nations aimed at drastically reducing poverty. Without respect for the dignity of the human person, there could be no true development.

48. **Ms. Lizarde** (Interim Facilitating Group for the Follow-up to Monterrey (IFG)) said that the considerable momentum generated in Monterrey in 2002 had not been maintained; stalling and back-tracking on resource mobilization for development were clearly evident, and massive amounts of resources were being diverted into military spending and the waging of armed conflicts, followed by the need for new resources for reconstruction. The real development agenda was being sidelined, and the current disabling environment was further exacerbating feminized poverty, social instability and human insecurity. The pursuit of a global agenda on financing for sustainable development depended ultimately on the normative multilateral framework of the United Nations as outlined in its Charter. The search for policy coherence required the establishment of mutually reinforcing policies between the Council and the Security Council to promote economic and political security in an enabling environment of peace.

49. At the Hearings and Dialogue with Civil Society, on 20 March 2003, a series of recommendations had been made in five areas to the United Nations and Member States, Bretton Woods institutions and WTO. In the area of debt relief, they should cancel the debt of poor countries, review and reshape debt-sustainability criteria around the capacity to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, support a fair and transparent arbitration process between debtor and creditor countries and establish a joint working group on debt. In the area of trade and development, they should build development-based trade rules that would maximize employment under decent conditions, integrate WTO into the United Nations system, apply special and differential treatment at WTO and prevent developed countries from pressuring developing countries to liberalize their service sectors under the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) agreements. With regard to reform of global governance, they should explore proposals for new decision-making structures on economic policies within the United Nations framework and promote the democratization of IMF and World Bank policy formulation and implementation at the national level. With regard to the Millennium Development Goals/ODA, they should recognize the cross-cutting nature of human rights, gender equality and women's empowerment as central to the achievement of all the development goals, and honour the pledges made in the context of Monterrey. With regard to policy coherence, the Council, the Bretton Woods institutions and WTO should give joint consideration to the establishment of an international commodity policy or agreement as a means of increasing the incomes of indebted countries, the creation of a mechanism for ensuring coordination of macroeconomic and exchange rate policies among currency reserve countries, and the promotion of core labour standards as enshrined in the International Labour Organization Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work.

50. **Mr. Underwood** (Business Council for the United Nations) said that while the architects of the Monterrey process had recognized the importance of private-sector capital in achieving its goals, there still appeared to be a general lack of interest on the part of developed as well as developing countries in working with the private sector to mobilize capital both domestically and internationally. Dialogue on issues and consensus-building was continuing without much corresponding progress on building substantive mechanisms and processes for financing for development. The Business Council had formulated a number of specific recommendations on overcoming some of the impediments to those processes, dealing with the ability of countries to communicate country opportunities, risks and investment transaction services, improving developing countries' access to long-term financing for infrastructure development, and establishing frameworks for collaboration and coordination between the private and public sectors in the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus. The private sector had provided US$ 660 billion in net capital flows to developing countries between 1996 and 2003, or more than three times that provided by the official sector. That figure included US$ 79 billion in net capital flows to Africa alone, which was ten times the figure for the official sector. He therefore called on Governments and international financial institutions to work actively with the private sector, and urged improvement in communications between the stakeholder groups.

51. **Ms. Freudenschuss-Reichl** (United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)), reporting on progress achieved with respect to the initiative entitled "Enabling developing countries to participate in international trade — strengthening the supply capacity", said that the trust fund created in that regard was attracting donor interest and the first activities under the fund were being developed. In the

context of that initiative, cooperation with WTO, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the International Trade Centre (ITC) had been reinforced, thus contributing to enhancing coherence in the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus in the area of trade facilitation. A second initiative, entitled "Mobilizing international resources for development: foreign direct investment and other private flows", concerned a pilot operation in Nigeria and combined a private sector equity investment organization, aimed at investment in small- and medium-scale enterprises, with grant-funded UNIDO-managed technical support. The project was being duplicated in other countries.

52. On the issue of national economic policies, she said that, in the view of UNIDO, they should be enhanced by the productive capacity of developing countries. In that regard, UNIDO had worked extensively with African Ministers of Industry on the development of productive capacity initiatives at the subregional level. Those initiatives involved regional financial institutions that had agreed to establish sectoral financial windows. UNIDO was confident that as a result of those initiatives a continent-wide African productive capacity initiative could be agreed at the Conference of African Ministers of Industry in November 2003 as part of the operational aspects of NEPAD.

53. Environmentally sound technologies needed to be promoted as one of the main elements of successful domestic economic strategies. In that regard, one of the main priorities of the cleaner production and water management programmes of UNIDO was to transfer environmentally sound technologies which combined medium and large volume investments in selected industries. An investment portfolio was prepared after a series of development steps had been carried out, including identification of industrial hot spots of pollution, preparation of environmental impact assessments, environmental accounting and market studies. UNIDO had demonstrated the success of that approach in a number of countries and hoped that financing would be made available as part of the follow-up to the Monterrey Conference in order to replicate that approach.

54. Lastly, responding to the President's invitation for comments on the format of future meetings, she said that future meetings should have a shorter agenda so that more time could be devoted to individual issues.

55. **Mr. Langmore** (International Labour Organization) said that he was encouraged by the statement made by the representative of Finland, as well as by reports from several countries on actions to increase allocations to ODA. Nevertheless, the promises made still fell far short of the necessary increase, as estimated by the World Bank, to stimulate economic and employment growth in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. In that regard, the proposal by the United Kingdom to establish an international financial facility was worth exploring. A second possibility was to make special drawing rights free of interest and reduce the opportunity cost of holding currencies in reserves. A third method of increasing reserves for development would be to strengthen international support for domestic revenue collection through increased international tax cooperation. There was an urgent need to reduce tax evasion opportunities by strengthening the capacities of national tax authorities for efficient and equitable tax administration. Without the introduction of mechanisms of that kind, the Millennium Development Goals would not be achieved.

56. **Mr. Desai** (Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs) said that the lack of coherence in the policies of both developed and developing countries should be recognized. There was also an issue of coherence at the global level with respect to the whole issue of implementing internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. In that regard, the current meeting could identify particularly egregious examples of incoherence of policy, develop certain ideas on how they should be addressed and leave the decisions to the appropriate executive negotiating bodies.

57. Turning to the issue of civil society, he noted that there was a need to look at the longer-term goals of non-governmental organizations, that sometimes felt they had no role. However, a meeting such as the current one created an opportunity for them to play a part. Without their participation, there would be even less progress. The challenge was to spark and maintain a conversation between and among different cultures and generate real traction behind the partnerships and commitments made at Monterrey.

Concluding comments by the President of the Council

58. **The President** said that the meeting marked the first time that there had been such a large presence of executive directors of the Bretton Woods institutions as well as a representative of WTO. The dialogue had comprised three elements; the first one concerned the lack of progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals as a result of flat growth, declining terms of trade and negative resource flows. The second element was the bringing together of the four multilateral institutional stakeholders mentioned in the Monterrey Consensus, each with its own priorities and its own ways of relating to its national membership. The third element had to do with the role of the meeting as a follow-up to the Monterrey Conference. There was a need for greater focus in future, and the snap decision by the Chairpersons of the four Round Tables to focus on specific issues had turned up some very specific ideas, which could serve as the minutes of the gathering. Those ideas could also be used as inputs for follow-up activities of the meeting and especially for the high-level session of the General Assembly. The meeting had also built upon the annual spring meetings of the Bretton Woods institutions.

The meeting rose at 5.50 p.m.

United Nations E/2003/SR.9

Economic and Social Council

Provisional

12 June 2003

Original: English

Resumed organizational session for 2003

Provisional summary record of the 9th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 29 April 2003 at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. Rosenthal ..... (Guatemala)

Contents

Elections, nominations, confirmations and appointments

Corrections to this record should be submitted in one of the working languages. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent *within one week of the date of this document* to the Chief, Official Records Editing Section, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza.

03-34056 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Elections, nominations, confirmations and appointments (A/RES/57/185; E/2003/L.3 and Add.1-10)

Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (E/2002/L.3/Add.6)

1. **The President** drew attention to document E/2003/L.3/Add.6 containing information on the expiration of the terms of office of five members of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW). In view of the fact that the General Assembly, in its resolution 57/175, had endorsed the recommendation of the Working Group on the future operation of INSTRAW relating to replacing the current Board of Trustees with an advisory board, the Bureau considered it futile to elect new members to a body which in all likelihood would be abolished in three months' time. Consequently, he proposed that the Council should extend the terms of office of the existing members of the Board of Trustees and postpone the election of five new members until it took action on the recommendations of the Working Group at its substantive session in July.

2. *It was so decided.*

Statistical Commission (E/2003/L.3)

3. **The President** invited the Council to elect eight members of the Statistical Commission for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 2004.

4. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Council) said that Cape Verde and Kenya had been endorsed by the Group of African States; the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Korea had been endorsed by the Group of Asian States; Belarus, Croatia and Ukraine had been endorsed by the Group of Eastern European States; Cuba had been endorsed by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States; and the United States of America had been endorsed by the Group of Western European and Other States.

5. **The President** said that since the number of candidates from the African States, the Asian States and the Latin American and Caribbean States and the Western European and Other States was equal to the number of vacancies, he took it that the Council wished to elect by acclamation the candidates proposed.

6. *It was so decided.*

7. *Cape Verde, Cuba, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kenya, the Republic of Korea and the United States were elected members of the Statistical Commission.*

8. **The President** invited the Council to elect, by secret ballot, two members from the Group of Eastern European States.

9. *At the invitation of the President, Ms. Álvarez Núñez (Cuba) and Mr. Mukta (India) acted as tellers.*

10. *A vote was taken by secret ballot*:

Number of ballot papers:	54
Number of valid ballots:	54
Abstentions:	1
Number of members voting:	53
Required majority:	27
Number of votes obtained:	
Ukraine	48
Croatia	37
Belarus	18
Czech Republic	1

11. *Having obtained the required majority, Croatia and Ukraine were elected members of the Statistical Commission.*

Commission on Population and Development (E/2003/L.3)

12. **The President** invited the Council to elect nine members of the Commission on Population and Development for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 2004.

13. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Council) said that Kenya, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Madagascar had been endorsed by the Group of African States; Japan had been endorsed by the Group of Asian States; there were no candidates from the Group of Eastern European States or the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States; and France and the Netherlands had been endorsed by the Group of Western European and Other States.

14. **The President** said that since the number of candidates from all States was equal to or less than the number of vacancies, he took it that the Council wished to elect by acclamation the candidates proposed.

15. *It was so decided.*

16. *France, Kenya, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Japan, Madagascar and the Netherlands were elected members of the Commission on Population and Development.*

17. **The President** said he took it that the Council wished to postpone the election of one member from the Group of Asian States, one member from the Group of Eastern European States and one member from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 2004.

18. *It was so decided.*

19. **The President** reminded the Council that there were three additional vacancies on the Commission which had been carried over from previous elections. Two members from the Group of Asian States remained to be elected for a term of office beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 2005. One member from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States remained to be elected for a term of office beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 2004.

Commission for Social Development (E/2003/L.3)

20. **The President** invited the Council to elect 15 members of the Commission for Social Development for a four-year term, beginning at the initial meeting of the Commission's forty-third session in 2004 and expiring at the close of the Commission's forty-sixth session in 2008.

21. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Council) said that Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Mali and Tunisia had been endorsed by the Group of African States; Japan, Indonesia and the Republic of Korea had been endorsed by the Group of Asian States; the Russian Federation had been endorsed by the Group of Eastern European States; Chile, Haiti and Peru had been endorsed by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States; and France, Germany and the United States had been endorsed by the Group of Western European and Other States.

22. **The President** said that since the number of candidates from all States was equal to or less than the number of vacancies, he took it that the Council wished to elect by acclamation the candidates proposed.

23. *It was so decided.*

24. *Chile, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Haiti, Indonesia, Japan, Mali, Peru, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Tunisia and the United States were elected members of the Commission for Social Development.*

25. **The President** said that he took it that the Council agreed to postpone the election of one member from the Group of Eastern European States for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 2004.

26. *It was so decided.*

Commission on Human Rights (E/2003/L.3)

27. **The President** invited the Council to elect 24 members of the Commission on Human Rights for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2004.

28. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Council) said that Congo, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Mauritania and South Africa had been endorsed by the Group of African States; Bhutan, India, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Nepal, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Thailand had been endorsed by the Group of Asian States; Hungary and the Russian Federation had been endorsed by the Group of Eastern European States; Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Honduras and Peru had been endorsed by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States; and Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal and the United Kingdom had been endorsed by the Group of Western European and Other States.

29. **The President** said that since the number of candidates from the African States, the Eastern European States and the Latin American and Caribbean States was equal to the number of vacancies, he took it that the Council wished to elect by acclamation the candidates proposed.

30. *It was so decided.*

31. *Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Mauritania, Nigeria, Peru, the Russian Federation and South Africa were elected members of the Commission on Human Rights.*

32. **The President** invited the Council to elect, by secret ballot, six members from the Group of Asian States and three members from the Group of Western European and Other States from among the candidates listed.

33. *At the invitation of the President, Mr. Ndabashinze (Burundi) and Mr. Vasiliev (Russian Federation) acted as tellers.*

34. *A vote was taken by secret ballot.*

Asian States:

Number of ballot papers:	54
Number of valid ballots:	54
Number of members voting:	54
Required majority:	28
Number of votes obtained:	
India	47
Saudi Arabia	45
Qatar	44
Bhutan	39
Nepal	39
Indonesia	33
Islamic Republic of Iran	33
Thailand	29

35. *Having obtained the required majority and the largest number of votes, India, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bhutan and Nepal were elected members of the Commission on Human Rights.*

Two candidates having received an equal number of votes, a second vote was taken by secret ballot.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Ndabashinze (Burundi) and Ms. Álvarez Nuñez (Cuba) acted as tellers.

Number of ballot papers:	54
Number of valid ballots:	54
Number of members voting:	54
Required majority:	28
Number of votes obtained:	
Indonesia	31
Islamic Republic of Iran	23

36. *Having obtained the required majority, Indonesia was elected a member of the Commission on Human Rights.*

Group of Western European and Other States:

Number of ballot papers:	54
Number of valid ballots:	54
Number of members voting:	54
Required majority:	28
Number of votes obtained:	
Italy	47
United Kingdom	44
Netherlands	35
Portugal	31

37. *Having obtained the required majority and the largest number of votes, Italy, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom were elected members of the Commission on Human Rights.*

38. **Mr. Siv** (United States of America), speaking in explanation of vote, said that the election of Cuba to the Commission on Human Rights was an outrage to which his delegation objected in the strongest terms. Cuba had the worst human rights record in the hemisphere, and its nomination to the Commission on Human Rights symbolized the Commission's regrettable decline in international prestige, relevance and authority.

39. While the Commission had recently been in session, with Cuba sitting as a member, the Cuban authorities had rounded up 78 opposition leaders, independent journalists and librarians, held summary trials and sent them to prison for terms of up to 28 years. The Government had also arrested three alleged hijackers and shot them to death within a week of incarceration. Those heinous acts were in keeping with a regime that had not had a free election in over 40 years, a regime that locked up its people at the whim of a dictator.

40. To its credit, and despite the strongest efforts of the Cuban Government, the Commission had repeatedly passed resolutions on human rights in Cuba. It had called on Cuba to accept a visit by a personal representative of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. Predictably, Cuba had rejected the validity of those resolutions and refused a visit. The Cuban policy had been to thwart the Commission's work, not support it. His delegation supported the candidacies of countries with strong human rights records for nomination, election and future membership.

41. **Mr. Rodríguez Parilla** (Cuba), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the prison population in the United States of America had reached 2 million; the death penalty was frequently applied, even against minors and the mentally disabled. Six hundred political prisoners, including three children,

were being held at Guantánamo in inhuman conditions and subjected to psychological torture. Five Cuban political prisoners had been tried in Miami without regard for due process; their right to appeal had been denied.

42. There were no secret military tribunals in Cuba. It was the United States, not Cuba, which awarded contracts for the reconstruction of Iraq to Halliburton Corporation without competitive bidding. In the United States, corporate corruption, as symbolized by Enron was a way of life.

43. During the recent conflict in Iraq the United States had "embedded" reporters with its troops in order to manipulate public opinion. The President of the country complaining of Cuba's election had been appointed by a partisan vote of the Supreme Court.

44. The United States blockade of Cuba was a flagrant violation of human rights. In Geneva, a few weeks earlier, the United States had voted against the right to food, health, a democratic world order and the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination.

45. Cuba had been elected to the Commission on Human Rights because it had the support of the majority of countries.

Commission on the Status of Women (E/2003/L.3)

46. **The President** invited the Council to elect 10 members of the Commission on the Status of Women for a four-year term beginning at the initial meeting of the Commission's forty-ninth session in 2004 and expiring at the close of its fifty-second session in 2008.

47. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Council) said that Ghana and Mauritius had been endorsed by the Group of African States; China and Kazakhstan had been endorsed by the Group of Asian States; Hungary had been endorsed by the Group of Eastern European States; the Dominican Republic, El Salvador and Suriname had been endorsed by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States; and Iceland and the United States had been endorsed by the Group of Western European and Other States.

48. **The President** said that since the number of candidates from all States was equal to the number of vacancies, he took it that the Council wished to elect by acclamation the candidates proposed.

49. *It was so decided.*

50. *China, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Ghana, Hungary, Iceland, Kazakhstan, Mauritius, Suriname and the United States were elected members of the Commission on the Status of Women.*

Commission on Narcotic Drugs (E/2003/L.3)

51. **The President** invited the Council to elect 33 members of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 2004.

52. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Council) said that Algeria, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Madagascar, Sudan, Uganda and Zambia had been endorsed by the Group of African States; India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand and the United Arab Emirates had been endorsed by the Group of Asian States; Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Hungary had been endorsed by the Group of Eastern European States; Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Guatemala, Peru, Suriname and Uruguay were the non-endorsed candidates from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States; and Austria, France, Germany, Israel, Italy, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States had been endorsed by the Group of Western European and Other States.

53. **The President** said that since the number of candidates from the African States, the Asian States, the Eastern European States and the Western European and Other States was equal to the number of vacancies, he took it that the Council wished to elect by acclamation the candidates proposed.

54. *It was so decided.*

55. *Algeria, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cameroon, Croatia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, France, Germany, India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Israel, Italy, Hungary, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Madagascar, Malaysia, Myanmar, Norway, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Uganda, the United Arab Emirates, the United States and Zambia were elected members of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.*

56. **The President** invited the Council to elect, by secret ballot, six members from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States from among the candidates listed.

57. *At the invitation of the President, Mr. Mammedaliyev (Azerbaijan) and Mr. Kupitz (Germany) acted as tellers.*

58. *A vote was taken by secret ballot.*

Number of ballot papers:	54
Number of valid ballots:	54
Number of members voting:	54
Required majority:	28
Number of votes obtained:	
Brazil	46
Peru	46
Guatemala	45
Argentina	42
Cuba	42
Chile	41
Uruguay	36
Suriname	14

59. *Having obtained the required majority and the largest number of votes, Brazil, Peru, Guatemala, Argentina, Cuba and Chile were elected members of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.*

60. **The President** said he took it that the Council agreed to postpone the election of one member from the Group of Western European and Other States for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 2004.

61. *It was so decided.*

Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (E/2003/L.3)

62. **The President** invited the Council to elect 20 members of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2004.

63. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Council) said that Botswana, Burundi, Egypt and Nigeria had been endorsed by the Group of African States; India, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Saudi Arabia and Thailand had been endorsed by the Group of Asian States; the Czech Republic and Ukraine had been endorsed by the Group of Eastern European States; Brazil, Cuba, Jamaica, Mexico and Paraguay had been endorsed by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States; and Canada, Finland, the United Kingdom and the United States had been endorsed by the Group of Western European and Other States.

64. **The President** said that since the number of candidates from all States was equal to the number of vacancies, he took it that the Council wished to elect by acclamation the candidates proposed.

65. *It was so decided.*

66. *Botswana, Brazil, Burundi, Canada, the Czech Republic, Cuba, Egypt, Finland, India, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Jamaica, Mexico, Nigeria, Paraguay, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, Ukraine, the United Kingdom and the United States were elected members of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.*

67. **The President** informed the Council that Germany would relinquish its seat on the Commission on 1 January 2004. Turkey had been endorsed by the Group of Western European and Other States to complete the unexpired portion of the term, which would end on 31 December 2005. He took it that the Council agreed to elect Turkey to complete Germany's term of office.

68. *It was so decided.*

Commission on Sustainable Development (E/2003/L.3)

69. **The President** invited the Council to elect 17 members of the Commission on Sustainable Development for a three-year term beginning at the organizational meeting of the Commission's thirteenth session in 2004 and expiring at the close of its fifteenth session in 2007.

70. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Council) said that Algeria, Burkina Faso, Ghana and Sierra Leone had been endorsed by the Group of African States; the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Pakistan and Qatar had been endorsed by the Group of Asian States; Georgia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia had been endorsed by the Group of Eastern European States; Brazil, Colombia and Paraguay had been endorsed by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States; and Austria, Finland, France and Luxembourg had been endorsed by the Group of Western European and Other States.

71. **The President** said that since the number of candidates from all States was equal to the number of vacancies, he took it that the Council wished to elect by acclamation the candidates proposed.

72. *It was so decided.*

73. *Algeria, Austria, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Colombia, Finland, France, Georgia, Ghana, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Luxembourg, Pakistan, Paraguay, Qatar, Sierra Leone and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia were elected members of the Commission on Sustainable Development.*

Commission on Science and Technology for Development (E/2003/L.3)

74. **The President** invited the Council to consider the postponed election of four members of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development from the Group of Western European and Other States for a term beginning on the date of election; two terms would expire on 31 December 2004 and two on 31 December 2006.

75. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Council) said that Turkey had been endorsed by the Group of Western European and Other States for a term expiring on 31 December 2006.

76. **The President** said he took it that the Council wished to elect Turkey by acclamation.

77. *It was so decided.*

78. **The President** said that, in the absence of any other candidates for the postponed vacancies, he took it that the Council agreed to further postpone the election of two members from the Group of Western European and Other States for a term expiring on 31 December 2004 and the election of one member from those States for a term expiring on 31 December 2006.

79. *It was so decided.*

Committee for Programme and Coordination (E/2003/L.3/Add.1)

80. **The President** invited the Council to nominate seven members of the Committee for Programme and Coordination for election by the General Assembly for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2004.

81. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Council) said that the Comoros and Zimbabwe had been endorsed by the Group of African States; the Russian Federation had been endorsed by the Group of Eastern European States; the Bahamas and Mexico had been endorsed by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States; and France and the United States had been endorsed by the Group of Western European and Other States.

82. **The President** said that since the number of candidates from all States was equal to the number of vacancies, he took it that the Council wished to nominate them for election by the General Assembly.

83. *The Bahamas, the Comoros, France, Mexico, the Russian Federation, the United States and Zimbabwe were nominated for election by the General Assembly to the Committee for Programme and Coordination.*

84. **The President** invited the Council to consider the postponed nomination of one candidate from the Group of Western European and Other States for election by the General Assembly for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 2005.

85. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Council) said that Canada had been endorsed by the Group of Western European and Other States.

86. **The President** said he took it that the Council wished to nominate Canada for election by the General Assembly.

87. It was so decided.

Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting (E/2003/L.3/Add.2)

88. **The President** invited the Council to elect 13 members of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2004.

89. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Council) said that Ghana had been endorsed by the Group of African States.

90. **The President** said he took it that the Council wished to elect Ghana by acclamation.

91. *It was so decided.*

92. **The President** said he took it that the Council agreed to postpone the election of one member from the Group of African States, four members from the Group of Asian States, two members from the Group of Eastern European States and three members from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2004.

93. *It was so decided.*

94. **The President** reminded the Council that the election of 13 additional members of the Working Group had also been carried over from previous elections. One member from the Group of Eastern European States and one member from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States remained to be elected for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 2003. In addition, one member from the Group of African States, two members from the Group of Asian States, two members from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States and six members from the Group of Western European and Other States remained to be elected for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 2005. In order for the Working Group to maintain a quorum for its meetings, those vacancies must be filled as soon as possible.

Committee for Development Policy
(E/2003/L.3/Add.10)

95. **The Chairman** said he took it that the Council agreed to the proposal, contained in document, E/2003/L.3/Add.10, to postpone the appointment of 24 new members of the Committee for Development Policy until after the Council's substantive session in July.

96. *It was so decided.*

Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund
(E/2003/L.3/Add.3)

97. **The President** invited the Council to elect 14 members of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2004.

98. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Council) said that Algeria, Burundi, Djibouti, Malawi and Senegal had been endorsed by the Group of African States; Bangladesh, Lebanon and Myanmar had been endorsed by the Group of Asian States; Belarus had been endorsed by the Group of Eastern European States; El Salvador was the non-endorsed candidate from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States; and Austria, Denmark, Italy and Sweden had been endorsed by the Group of Western European and Other States.

99. **The President** said that since the number of candidates from all States was equal to the number of vacancies, he took it that the Council wished to elect by acclamation the candidates proposed.

100. *It was so decided.*

101. *Algeria, Austria, Bangladesh, Belarus, Burundi, Denmark, Djibouti, El Salvador, Italy, Lebanon, Malawi, Myanmar, Senegal and Sweden were elected members of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund.*

102. **The President** informed the Council that Germany, Ireland and Luxembourg would relinquish their seats on the UNICEF Executive Board on 1 January 2004. He took it that the Council wished to elect France, Norway and Japan to complete the terms of office of Germany, Ireland and Luxembourg, which would end on 31 December 2005, 31 December 2004 and 31 December 2004, respectively.

103. *It was so decided.*

Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
(A/RES/57/185)

104. **The President** drew attention to General Assembly resolution 57/185 in which the Assembly had decided to enlarge the membership of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees by three seats and had requested the Council to elect the new members.

105. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Council) said that the proposed candidates were Cyprus, Kenya and Yemen.

106. **The President** said he took it that the Council wished to elect by acclamation the candidates proposed.

107. *It was so decided.*

108. *Cyprus, Kenya and Yemen were elected members of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.*

109. **The President** drew attention to a letter from the Permanent Mission of Egypt (E/2003/3) regarding further enlargement of the Executive Committee. The Council would consider that request at its forthcoming substantive session.

Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund
(E/2003/L.3/Add.4)

110. **The President** invited the Council to elect 14 members of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2004.

111. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Council) said that Botswana, Cameroon, Congo, Eritrea and Gambia had been endorsed by the Group of African States; China, Indonesia and the Islamic Republic of Iran had been endorsed by the Group of Asian States; Poland had been endorsed by the Group of Eastern European States; Cuba had been endorsed by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States; and Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands and Sweden had been endorsed by the Group of Western European and Other States.

112. **The President** said that, since the number of candidates from all States was equal to the number of vacancies, he took it that the Council wished to elect by acclamation the candidates proposed.

113. *It was so decided.*

114. *Botswana, Cameroon, China, Congo, Cuba, Denmark, Eritrea, Gambia, Germany, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Netherlands, Poland and Sweden were elected members of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund.*

Executive Board of the World Food Programme
(E/2003/L.3/Add.5)

115. **The President** invited the Council to elect six members of the Executive Board of the World Food Programme for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2004.

116. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Council) said that Senegal had been endorsed by the Group of African States (List A); India and Pakistan had been endorsed by the Group of Asian States (List B); and the Russian Federation had been endorsed by the Group of Eastern European States (List E).

117. **The President** said that, since the number of candidates from Lists A, B and E was equal to the number of vacancies, he took it that the Council wished to elect by acclamation the candidates proposed.

118. *It was so decided.*

119. *India, Pakistan, the Russian Federation and Senegal were elected members of the Executive Board of the World Food Programme.*

120. **The President** said he took it that the Council wished to postpone the election of two members from List D for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2004.

121. *It was so decided.*

Committee for the United Nations Population Award
(E/2003/L.3/Add.7)

122. **The President** invited the Council to elect 10 members of the Committee for the United Nations Population Award.

123. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Council) said that Algeria and Kenya had been endorsed by the Group of African States; Bangladesh had been endorsed by the Group of Asian States; Peru had been endorsed by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States; and the Netherlands had been endorsed by the Group of Western European and Other States.

124. **The President** said that, since the number of candidates from all States was equal to or less than the number of vacancies, he took it that the Council wished to elect by acclamation the candidates proposed.

125. *It was so decided.*

126. *Algeria, Bangladesh, Kenya, the Netherlands and Peru were elected members of the Committee for the United Nations Population Award.*

127. **The President** said that, in the absence of any other candidate, he took it that the council wished to postpone the election of one member from the Group of African States, one member from the Group of Asian States, one member from the Group of Eastern European States and two members from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2004.

128. *It was so decided.*

129. **The President** reminded the Council of the three vacancies on the Committee that had not been filled in previous elections. Two members from the Group of

Asian States and one member from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States remained to be elected for a term of office expiring on 31 December 2003.

Programme Coordination Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (UNAIDS) (E/2003/L.3/Add.8)

130. **The President** invited the Council to elect nine members of the Programme Coordination Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2004.

131. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Council) said that Cape Verde and Swaziland had been endorsed by the Group of African States; China and Japan had been endorsed by the Group of Asian States; the Czech Republic had been endorsed by the Group of Eastern European States; the Bahamas had been endorsed by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States; and the Netherlands, Switzerland and the United Kingdom had been endorsed by the Group of Western European and Other States.

132. **The President** said that, since the number of candidates from all States was equal to the number of vacancies, he took it that the Council wished to elect by acclamation the candidates proposed.

133. *It was so decided.*

134. *Bahamas, Cape Verde, China, the Czech Republic, Japan, the Netherlands, Swaziland, Switzerland and the United Kingdom were elected members of the Programme Coordination Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (UNAIDS).*

Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (E/2003/L.3/Add.9)

135. **The President** invited the Council to elect 19 members of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 2004.

136. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Council) said that Congo, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa and Swaziland had been endorsed by the Group of African States; India, Jordan, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia and Sri Lanka had been endorsed by the Group of Asian States; Belarus and Bulgaria had been endorsed by the Group of Eastern European States; Costa Rica, Mexico and Paraguay had been endorsed by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States; and Germany, Greece and Spain had been endorsed by the Group of Western European and Other States.

137. **The President** said that, since the number of candidates was equal to or less than the number of vacancies, he took it that the Council wished to elect by acclamation the candidates proposed.

138. *It was so decided.*

139. *Belarus, Bulgaria, Congo, Costa Rica, Germany, Greece, India, Jordan, Kenya, Mexico, Nigeria, Paraguay, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka and Swaziland were elected members of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme.*

140. **The President** said he took it that the Council agreed to postpone the election of one member from the Group of Western European and Other States for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 2004.

141. *It was so decided.*

The meeting rose at 12.20 p.m.